RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

JULY, 1882.

A GREAT FRUIT AND FLOWER SHOW.

THIS is an appropriate title for the Annual Meeting of the Ragged School Union, combining as it does the Scholars' Prize Meeting with an Anniversary Gathering. The young folks, some 665 of them, in the *flower* of their age, fresh and fair, are also, in their capacity as prize-takers, *beautiful fruits*—precious products under God of earnest men and women, who sought by the sowing of the inspired Word in their young and tender hearts so to irradiate their lives with Divine light as to prevent their stumbling and falling on the slippery ways and impeded paths of this world?

No plant or flower suffers more, or has its life imperilled by foul air, want of water, ungenial soil, deficient light and heat, than does the boy or girl, on their first entrance into life, from the maxims of the world, their own tempers, the surroundings of the shop or the family in which they may be placed—the feeling of independence on parental control—the possession of some little means which may minister to vanity or vice—the growth of the passions, and the insidious and powerful temptations to their improper exercise. They are open to the accidents of a treacherous sea; they may experience what Cowper so pathetically depicts when he says—

> "Me winds drive devious, tempest tossed,
> Sails ripped, seams opening wide, and compass lost,
> And day by day some current's thwarting force
> Sets me more distant from a prosperous course."

What a pleasure, then, to know that, so far as their worldly career has gone, so many gain prizes for the first year, so many for a second, and so on up to the fifth, the longest period for which

a prize is granted. And more than this (in order to secure a prize), all those whose position leaves them free on the Sabbath are obliged to bring a certificate of regular Sunday-school attendance, as a guarantee of some attention to their religious duties.

The distribution of prizes, as set forth in alphabetical order, shows that 62 schools sent up 665 successful candidates. Thus, Amicable Row, 7; Brewer's Court, 8; Brunswick Street, 4; Butler's Place, 5; Castle Lane, 9; Chequer Alley, 6; Collingwood Street, 4; Copperfield Road, 21; Croydon, 5; Dartford, 13; Deptford, 10; Dove Row, 7; Druid Street, 5; Drury Lane, 1; East Greenwich, 5; Emmot Street, 5; Ernest Street, 5; Exeter Buildings, 7; Field Lane, 11; Fox Court, 18; George Yard, 47; Gravesend, 4; Gray's Yard, 15; Grotto Passage, 2; Hatfield Street, 11; Henry Street, 6; Hope Street, 9; Horseferry Road, 9; John Street, Shacklewell, 6; Johnson's Court, 3; Jurston Street, 21; Kentish Town, 9; King Edward (The), 58; Kingsland, 9; Lambeth, 23; Lamb and Flag, 74; Lansdowne Place, 6; Little Saffron Hill, 2; Lower Park Road, 5; Marigold Place, 13; Milton's Yard, 2; Morton Road, 25; Nelson Street, 5; New Tothill Street, 10; Ogle Mews, 18; Old Castle Street, 2; Old Pye Street (One Tun), 11; Parker Street, 10; Poplar, 2; Ratcliff, 1; Richmond Street, 5; Robert Street, 9; Rosemary Hall, 24; Rufford's Buildings, 7; St. James's Place, 4; Three Colt Street, 6; Victory Place, 12; Wentworth Street, 3; West Greenwich, 14; Wilkes Street, 4; York Mews, 1.

Are we not right, then, in calling such a gathering a Grand Fruit and Flower Show? The school banners, which gave a gay surrounding to the scholars, were flags of triumph. The Annual Meeting this year, in its fulness and fervour, was worthy of its earliest days. The meeting was, as usual, brightened by the presence of the noble Earl. The speaking was to the point, and the children sang like birds.

An old Ragged School teacher, Mr. T. J. Johnson, J.P., entranced the audience—for the most part co-workers in the grand cause—with his graphic recital of experiences among the waifs and strays of a great provincial city.

Sir Robert Carden, whose genial presence always calls forth a cheer, especially from the juvenile portion of the audience, filled the chair when the Earl left on account of indisposition.

A fitting notice was taken of the tragic event which occurred at Dublin on the previous Saturday by the proposal of a carefully prepared resolution expressive alike of horror, indignation, regret, and sympathy, and including a message of condolence to the families made desolate by the blows of the assassins.

Reference was also made in the lucid and comprehensive Report to the loss of Mr. William Locke, for many years the able Honorary Secretary, and also one of the founders of the Ragged School Union.

The Report was bright with satisfaction at the year's work, showing an increase in the numbers under religious instruction, and full of hope as to the future on account of the development of the work, indicating an appreciation of the want of the times as regards the spiritual and the more human everyday needs of the rising generation.

The tone of depression was very properly reserved for the close, when allusion was made to the falling-off of subscriptions, the absence of legacies, and the necessity of falling back on the reserve fund, from which during the year more than a thousand pounds have been taken. Unless matters take a favourable turn, this is a very serious outlook. It will almost immediately entail more than usual care and economy, so as to ensure the fulfilment of reasonable expectations of aid to the many local institutions whose life hangs to a large degree on the Society's subsidies, and will also cripple the Society's movements as regards extensions of their work in outlying districts amongst a poor folk who require a generous start and liberal aid grants in order to ensure the success of their self-denying efforts.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

HELD AT EXETER HALL ON MONDAY, MAY 8*th*, 1882.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., PRESIDED.

ON this occasion the grand old hall was filled to overflowing by an enthusiastic gathering of the teachers, friends, and supporters of the Union. On the platform were mustered the prize-takers from sixty-two Ragged Schools and Missions, who with their teachers formed, under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Proudman, a thoroughly efficient choir, and Mr. D. I. D. Codnor presided at the organ.

At six o'clock the Right HON. the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., took the

chair, supported by Alderman Sir Robert Carden, M.P., and Miss Carden; Professor Leone Levi, LL.D.; the Revs. H. E. Fox, M.A., Dr. Sinclair Paterson, R. H. Atherton, A. Strawbridge, S. R. Starey, Prebendary Cadman, W. Tyler, and W. R. Mowll; Mr. J. H. Fordham, Dr. Cross, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Peters, &c.

The children sang, "O God! our help in ages past," joined in by the audience. Prayer was then offered by the Rev. R. H. ATHERTON, M.A.

The noble CHAIRMAN then said:—

Since I came into this building a paper has been put into my hands with a proposition that I should mention it to this meeting, and obtain from them some expression of sympathy in connection with that terrible event in Ireland of which you have all heard.

I do not suppose there are ten men, ten women, or even ten children in this hall, or in the United Kingdom, who will, while they live, forget the state of mind experienced by the people yesterday. Every one of you has heard of the deed of unparalleled horror and brutality perpetrated on Saturday night in the neighbouring island. Two distinguished men were brutally, and foully, and cowardly assassinated in an open park, in broad daylight, and in the presence of hundreds of people. But the whole thing was so quietly, so surreptitiously transacted that those who witnessed it thought it was little more than an Irish row, and passed on, paying no attention to the matter. The result was the fiendish murder of two public men, officials of her Majesty's Government. Coming quietly home from the business of the day, they were attacked by four ruffians, struck in the back, struck with bowie knives, evidently showing the place and land from whence the cowardly assassins had come. Although probably of Irish birth, I cannot yet believe they were of Irish sentiment. Lamentable as have been the occurrences which have taken place in Ireland, I venture to say no Irish murderer has ever perpetrated his crime in a more foul, savage, and brutal manner than that. It plainly comes from the other side of the Atlantic.

Now, I have been requested to put before you this token of sympathy, and to ask you to unite as one man in such an expression of heartfelt grief for the bereaved and sorrowing relatives of those two gentlemen who have died as martyrs at their post. Suffer me to utter one or two words from my own heart.

Of Mr. Burke I cannot speak with personal knowledge and acquaintance; but I can speak from what I have heard in all directions, and particularly from what I heard this evening in the House of Lords. He was a thorough, honest, straightforward man, devoted to his duty, and turning neither to the right nor to the left; failing only, if at all, in too great an exhibition of personal courage, refusing to be guarded by the police, and thus left defenceless to face his cruel murderers.

But of the other gentleman I can speak from personal knowledge, for I knew him well. A more amiable, a more courteous, a more gentlemanly, a more true, a more honest man than Lord Frederick Cavendish I never knew in the whole course of

my life. Steady in business habits, faithful to his duty, offending no one, so that men of all parties had a good word for him, because he had a kindly feeling for all. He was a man such as we have very few of—I wish to God that England abounded with them.

I must say one word not only for the family: the father and brother, the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Hartington, are well known to you all by fame and reputation, for they are valuable men and noble citizens of this great country. But I wish particularly to place before your minds the high and estimable character of that noble lady who has so suddenly and cruelly been made a widow. I do not believe that England possesses a more admirable woman than that woman left alone in the world. She has all the qualities that adorn a woman—true, deep, sincere, unpretending piety. England has not, amongst all her daughters, one who is more valuable and a greater ornament to her sex than this dear woman, now suffering such agonies of grief.

Now, from what I know of her, I am assured she will prize very much indeed an expression of sympathy at such a time from the class of people I am now addressing. Her sympathies have always been with the poor and suffering, and she will value greatly an expression of sympathy from the Ragged School teachers and children of this city. Her heart has ever been in work of that kind. She is a true English woman, and every English heart should unite not only in expressions of sympathy, but also in heartfelt prayer that God will give her eternal happiness and immediate comfort and consolation.

The resolution is as follows:—

"That this meeting, composed of the prize-winners and the teachers and friends of the Ragged Schools of London in connection with the Ragged School Union, desires to express its profound and heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved relatives of the Right Hon. Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas H. Burke, Esq., the Chief Secretary and Under Secretary for Ireland, who were foully murdered on Saturday last in Phœnix Park, Dublin.

"That this meeting shares the universal feelings of dismay and horror at the perpetration of so great a crime, and humbly prays that the God of all comfort may comfort and sustain the bereaved relatives in the sufferings so cruelly inflicted upon them, and that the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury be requested to sign this resolution on behalf of this meeting, and forward the same to the relatives of the murdered gentlemen."

A more foul, a more cold-blooded crime has never been committed. It is to the everlasting shame of the Irish nation. Shall we not execrate the deed, regard with horror the crime, and join in sympathy with the sorrowing? At the same time let us join in prayer before God, that if it may please Him, it may be the last of that foul series of crimes and violence which have been perpetrated in the sister island.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to, with manifestations of deep feeling.

Mr. JOHN KIRK now read the following abstract of the Thirty-eighth Annual Report:—

In the opening part the Committee expressed their regret at the sudden death of Mr. Wm. Locke, who was so active in the initial stages of Ragged Schools, and was for many

years the indefatigable Honorary Secretary. Turning to the work of the past year, they were conscious of their inability to report a tithe of the good effected, however elaborate the statistics or accurate the details; but if any demand were made for tangible benefits they would first point to that platform filled with young people who had all been in a greater or less degree under the kindly Christian influence of the Ragged School teacher, and who now, having begun to labour for a livelihood, were able to claim a prize from the hand of the President that evening. The scheme for so rewarding the old scholars of Ragged Schools had been in continuous operation for twenty-nine years, during which period no less than 17,702 had received the illuminated certificate of merit and the 7s. 6d. in money. The prize scheme and the prize book were beneficial in many ways. "I found the trouble of obtaining the employers' signatures for our prize scholars to be very great," wrote a superintendent; "but I was fully compensated for it by the pleasure of hearing such good characters of the boys and girls who had been under our care." In one instance the awakened interest of the master led to the boy being sent for to the counting-house to receive the promise of an addition to his wages forthwith. The number of applications for prizes this year was 694, received from 62 different schools, 383 being for girls and 311 for boys; and from various causes it was found that 29 had not fulfilled the necessary conditions. The books again selected for prizes were the handsome and useful volumes, *The Girl's Own* and *The Boy's Own Annuals*, published by the Religious Tract Society, who generously aided the Committee by supplying the books at one-third of the published price. The illuminated card had been again specially designed by Mr. Charles Montague, a member of the Committee, as a labour of love. The results, seen and unseen, had, by God's blessing, been wrought out by the teachers and workers connected with the schools, who formed a noble army of 3,157 volunteers, animated by the constraining love of Christ. This total showed an increase of 141 teachers for the past year, 262 of the teachers being former scholars. There were, in addition, 187 paid teachers variously engaged in the Day Schools, Night, and Industrial Schools of the Union, together with 84 monitors. Three conferences of teachers were held in the autumn to consider their winter work. The affiliated buildings embraced 168, being an addition of 8 over the preceding year. Some of the Institutions were of great extent, and exercised a beneficent influence over large numbers of the destitute poor; others were small, struggling efforts, which especially needed the strengthening assistance afforded by the Union. In these days of publicity and craving for vast undertakings, it was with difficulty the smaller evangelistic efforts could make their voices heard; and the Committee deemed it to be of special importance to maintain the efficiency of of these unobtrusive but useful agencies. The noble building at Lambeth, which was erected at a cost of £10,000 in 1851, by the late Mr. Henry Beaufoy, as a memorial to his departed wife, down to the present had seen an unbroken chain

of service in the direction contemplated by the founder for the benefit of the poor of Lambeth. About five years ago, owing to a difficulty between the trustees and the local committee, the intervention of the Charity Commissioners was sought. Several proposals had been made in this interval for a settlement of the future use of the building and endowment fund. Last year the Committee were startled by a proposal by the Commissioners to sell the building to an outside body organised for purposes good in themselves, but not of the character intended by the founder. Owing to the protest made by the local committee and by Lord Shaftesbury on behalf of the Union, this unseemly proposal had been abandoned. As regarded Sunday Schools the figures showed an advance. There had been 203 separate schools, with 36,734 children attending, being an increase of 2,501 over the previous year. The Day Schools had a total of 5,838 children on the books, and an average attendance of 4,367. Notwithstanding the advances made in the education of poor children these schools were doing a still much needed and useful work. In some cases the poverty of the neighbourhood, the migratory character of the children, and their low mental type, rendered it a most difficult task to impart a knowledge of the three "R's," whilst in the case of many such children it was impossible to do more than tame them, and lift them a little out of the low animal condition to the threshold of mental and moral life by the force of love. A very excellent work was being done by several of these schools amongst the younger children below the school age. 155 Night Schools had been conducted with 4,868 elder lads and girls under instruction, and 8,751 on the books. Five new schools were opened during the year. In some places the Institute supplanted the school. The Shoeblack Brigade engaged 350 boys, who earned £11,731, this being an increase of £367 over the earnings of the previous year. Under the head "Finance" the Committee said the amount of money contributed for the support of that vast machinery was not satisfactory. The balance-sheet showed that the Committee received in donations for the year the sum of £1,045 13s., and in subscriptions only £883 16s. To these figures must be added £1,505 18s. 11d. received by collection and for special purposes named by the donors, and which include a generous grant of 200 guineas from the Corporation of the City of London. There was received in legacies £102 5s., and these, with some other items, bring the total amount of receipts to £3,909 18s. 8d. On the payment side, by grants to schools the sum of £3,187 17s. 4d. was expended, and this, with other items of outlay, made a total of £4,457 18s. 10d., or a difference of £1,270 1s. 6d. between the receipts and the payments. The whole of this had been spent, with most of the balance brought forward from the previous year, and leaving only a balance of £65 5s. 4d. An earnest appeal was made for aid under this state of things.

The children sang a variety of choral pieces, "Hear the Call," "Boating Song," "My Dog Dash," "May Flowers," after which the Chairman distributed the prizes and

certificates in accordance with annual custom, the representatives of the various schools being greeted with hearty applause.

The Right Hon. the Earl of SHAFTESBURY said: The programme has been a little disturbed out of consideration for myself and to suit my convenience, and as I am unable to stay here very long I am now asked to address you. The truth is, to reveal a very homely state of affairs, I am suffering from a severe attack of sciatica, and really ought not to be here at all. I did not, however, like to let this anniversary of the Ragged School Union pass without my being present, as I have been present at every anniversary since its formation. Now, if any one were to doubt my continued zeal in the welfare of the Ragged School movement, I have just to say that they might as well doubt whether I was alive or not. I may say that every year of my life confirms me more and more, and I also believe the public at large, in the faith of the value and importance of this Ragged School movement.

Those who listened to the valuable Report just read by your energetic secretary, Mr. Kirk, must have felt that it would be a sad thing for London and for the great mass of the working classes in this land if the operations of this Union were altogether suspended for want of adequate and necessary support. Now, observe, these schools are becoming more and more valuable every year, as I have had to tell you over and over again. The London School Board is doing a very great and good work, and they are doing it very conscientiously; but they are ready fully to admit that their experience proves to them that they do not and cannot reach those classes to which all our efforts are directed. At this moment, and despite the limited amount of money received, there are and have been tens of thousands who have been brought under the wholesome influence of our schools; and that work can be greatly, almost indefinitely, extended if we have the means of bringing more forces into operation. However, we must endeavour to do the best we can with the means placed in our hands.

Now, you have seen the distribution of prizes, and you have observed the good effect it has had upon the children. What a stimulus it has been to those who have been brought up from the depths of society to aspire to true, wise, and honourable things! I am happy to say—although you children may not have heard of it—that I once obtained a prize myself, which was given me on this platform; and it was given to me—what for, do you think? Because I had kept my place as President for more than twelve months, and because I had, I am happy to say, earned in it a good character. Now, my children, what you have heard be sure to act upon. You hear that thus you and I are on one common level; let us endeavour to do our duty in that state of life in which it has pleased God to place us.

Mention has been made of Mr. William Locke, who was so active at the commencement of the Ragged School movement. I desire to speak his name with all honour and respect, for he was one of the early

founders of Ragged School work. I worked with him myself for many years, and I knew his singleness of heart and devotion to the cause, his zeal for the cause of these schools, and his earnestness and piety. His love for children was remarkable. He has died at a good old age, and his memory will be cherished and blessed by the destitute and afflicted whom he succoured.

I will not say many more words—the personal consideration I have mentioned forbids my doing so—but I should have been very sorry to have been here without saying something about this valuable and admirable institution.

Now, my friends, Mr. Kirk has touched upon the varied amusements provided in connection with the meetings held by our Union. We are becoming more wise in that respect; we have learned that some recreations and amusements are necessary, are absolutely necessary, in connection with every well-managed Ragged School, and we have arranged to give those kinds of amusements which are instructive as well as amusing. The Secretary has given me too much credit in this matter. He referred to my providing a number of lanterns and musical instruments; but the fact is, I did so out of a certain sum which had been placed in my hands by a benevolent gentleman who left me to use it as I thought fit. Out of that fund we instituted the magic-lanterns. These magic-lanterns have been a great benefit as well as a delightful entertainment to the children, for, instead of going to the "penny gaffs," they come in hundreds to the magic-lantern exhibitions. I recollect very well when we first began the Ragged School movement, we made inquiry as to the conditions and engagements of the children. I found at that time that in an enormous number of instances the first crime committed by a child was the stealing of a penny or a halfpenny in order to go to the "penny gaff." We want to take that temptation away, and we want to get rid of these "penny gaffs," with their deplorable associations, as well as the temptations and snares of music-halls and such places. If you bring these children from the "penny gaffs" to the more wholesome recreation provided by the managers of our Ragged Schools, you are doing a great and noble work.

Now I must come to a close. I am not in a condition to make a speech. I rejoice in the progress of your work, in the good attention manifested in your schools by the children, in the advance in cleanliness, intelligence, and good conduct. I pray God that these efforts may be doubled, and trebled, and even quadrupled, compared to what they are, for the necessity is much greater, on account of the growth of the population, than it was forty years ago when we first began. May the blessing of God rest upon the movement, as it has done; for it is the light and joy which bring knowledge and wisdom to thousands and tens of thousands of the most destitute classes of our children.

While the children sang several choice pieces a collection was made on behalf of the Union.

Rev. H. E. Fox, M.A., of Christ Church, Westminster, said: It is a

clerical habit to begin with a text, and therefore I read as my text the resolution placed in my hands:—

"That this meeting desires to express its gratitude to Almighty God for His goodness to this Society during the thirty-eight years of its existence, and humbly prays that He will still help and prosper the good work for which it was established, and trusts that the importance of the efforts put forth for the training of poor and neglected children, in all the large centres of population to which its beneficial work extends, will call forth a ready and generous response to the Committee's appeal for the requisite funds by which to carry on the varied operations of the Society. That the Report, an abstract of which has been read, be adopted, printed and circulated, and that the following gentlemen be the Committee for the ensuing year."

My text is long enough without reading the names; we will take them as read, and I will now proceed to the sermon, which, however, follows the collection instead of preceding it. The doctrine of the text is exceedingly good, the application is excellent. I will tell you why I find much pleasure in standing here and moving this resolution. I feel very strongly the importance and truth of the words which have just fallen from our honoured President's lips: that the Ragged School is doing a work in a class of society which no other agency with which I am acquainted can do or is doing. It is reaching a class of children which the more respectable class of schools have hitherto been quite unable to reach. We have been told, and I am not sure that the echoes of the ominous prophecy have yet died away, that the Ragged School work was over when the School Board came into existence. Unhappily that prophecy has not been fulfilled. I wish with all my heart that it had been, and that the need for this Ragged School Union were over. Why? Because then we would be living in a country where public-houses were unknown; we would be living in a country where the church and chapel accommodation was infinitely too small for the crowds that thronged within their walls; we should be living in a country where drink was banished, or, at least, only known as a drug in the chemists' shops, a drug ordered in certain cases by the physicians, and ordered with bated breath; we should be living in a country prosperous and free because it was sober. Not till then, and not till such a state of things be produced, shall the days of the Ragged School Union be over, and its gigantic machinery cease to have a *raison d'être*. As long, however, as this country is as it now is, we shall have in our midst multitudes who cannot be reached by public schools, which on their own testimony have failed to reach them.

Another point is that I am not surprised at the success of your work, and I am persuaded that the secret of that success lies in your voluntary agency, lies in your bringing to your work the warm love, the Christian sympathy, and the divine energy of men and women who, filled with the life and love of Christ, can win the affections of the outcast, and from the slums and gutters of our streets can pluck the untamed waifs and strays of our city. I doubt if any public school machinery will ever be able to do

that work which you have been so successful in doing for well-nigh forty years.

Not only, however, are you doing a work that the School Board cannot do, and reaching a class of society that the Board Schools cannot reach, but for that class of children you are doing a kind of work which the School Board machinery is not designed to perform. I take it for granted that the great object towards which you direct the efforts of your Ragged School teachers is nothing less than the conversion of the souls of these children to God. I am afraid, sir, we are, many of us who are Christians, very sceptical as to conversion of children. I am bold to say, however, that some of the best Christians I have known have been children, and that some of the brightest of these young Christians which I have been privileged to see have been from the class represented by the children behind me; children won from the gutter by the efforts of the Ragged School.

Some few months ago I had the privilege of reading the beautiful burial service of our Church over the dust of one of the brightest jewels that will deck the crown of King Jesus. Yet he was but a ragged little cripple, and weary months had he spent in pain and weakness, lying all the time in a place where you, sir, would not allow your tenants' pigs to sleep. No loving one had this child to care for his natural wants; unable to read, unable to pass the time in innocent games, he had but to linger on the weary days and the still more weary sleepless nights. Yet in the midst of all he was happy, truly happy. His little wan face beamed with the love of the Saviour whom he had learned to know and trust, and his heart was filled with prayer, not only for himself, but also for his poor fellow-companions, that they might be brought to know and love Christ. I shall never forget what he said to our sick nurse when she carried him a bouquet of spring flowers — with which kind friends supply us for the purpose (and I may here say that I thank God for those sweet messengers of His love, which illumine the dreary chambers of sickness). "Nurse," he said, "you see I am just like the little stalk of that flower now, so thin and weak; but I am going very soon to be like the top of it, for when I get up there I shall be washed whiter than the snow." Yes; whiter than the snow he has been washed; and cripple no longer, he has now joined the heavenly choir, and his voice rings up there in praise to his Saviour. Ragged School teachers, let me say, look for the conversion of your children and you will have it. Thus you are doing a work the schools of the Board cannot do, because they do not profess to do it. Look for it, pray for it, work for it, and you will succeed in getting it.

Another reason why I am here to support the work of the Ragged School Union is, that while you are doing an immense amount of good to the children, you are also doing an immense amount of good to the teachers themselves. I am sure if any were more delighted when these prizes were carried away a few minutes since than my young friends behind me, it was the

teachers who carried away these great armfuls; their faces beamed with joy and honest pride in their scholars. In the work itself they find a true joy. That is not the crown that you will have by-and-by, but it is a reward. You get pleasure and satisfaction now, and better beyond. You get the reward and smile now, but the great reward in the future hereafter. The teachers are reaping joy now, but they are laying up a bright harvest of reward beyond. It was a saying of Dr. Marsh's that "God's ways are not as man's ways: if one man sins against another man whom he has served, the man is very slow to forget the sin, but very quick to forget the service. When God deals with man, He blots out the sin, but never forgets the service."

One reason more why I am here to support the Ragged School Union and its associate schools. Because you are doing incalculable good not only to the children, not only to your own souls, but also to the nation at large, on which you are conferring a great blessing. At a time like this, when we hear dark and terrible rumours of secret societies, which are said to be honeycombing even our English population, not to speak of the sister isle, I venture to say you can do no nobler action, and serve your country no more effectually, than by getting hold of these young people and instilling righteous principles into their minds, supplying thus the true antidote to rebellious and sceptical teaching. And if you, through the efforts of your schools and the influence of your teaching, save one from becoming a possible rebel, a possible anarchist, in these days and at this serious juncture, you are conferring a great boon upon the nation. I have the deepest sympathy with the solemn words spoken by our Chairman, and I am sure our hearts feel the most sincere sorrow for the bereaved.

With these words, my friends, I would urge boldly the claims of this Society for your warmest support, believing as I do that its efforts are carried out on behalf of a class which no other agency can reach, and in reaching which saving and conserving, in the highest sense of the word, the happiness, honour, dignity, and prosperity of our land.

And if you will forgive me committing what in private life would be called an ungentlemanly act, I will take the liberty of turning my back upon you and addressing the children.

My dear children,—If your Secretary had not told me, and if I did not know he was a man on whose word I could rely, I should not have thought you could have had anything to do with Ragged Schools. You are so well clothed that you do not look like Ragged School children now.

There is one word in Scripture about a certain kind of clothing—I wonder if any of you know where it is to be found?—and it is a kind of clothing I hope none of you will wear. "As he clothed himself with cursing like as with a garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones." The very worst kind of clothing a man could have, and I have heard it said that no habit is so difficult to get rid of—a habit of evil speak-

ing. Be sure, then, that you be on your watch against it. And you girls, I hope none of you will form such a habit; I am afraid some girls do. Now, you like to be well dressed; do you want to know the most beautiful, the most charming dress, and the prettiest ornament you can have? It is "the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit." If you abstain from all other ornaments, care little about feathers in your hat, earrings in your ears, or rings on your fingers, and if you can have the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, you may be the prettiest girls in all England. And may God bless you all.

The Rev. H. SINCLAIR PATERSON, M.D., said: Sir Robert Carden, ladies and gentlemen,—I also am in a strait betwixt two. Duty says, Speak to the audience in the hall; Inclination says, Speak to the children on the platform. I shall follow inclination first and duty afterwards.

Now, my children, I have been puzzling my mind ever since you sung that song about "My Dog Dash" as to whether you meant anything personal or not—whether you hinted anything about your agreeable and kindly Secretary when you said, "I love Dash, and Dash loves me," for I know you love your Secretary, and he certainly loves you. Or whether you meant it as a kind of parable indicating that you intended to be something like that good dog—affectionate, dutiful, and obedient. I do trust that these qualities, which we generally connect with that excellent animal, will be exhibited by you—that you will be affectionate and loving. Loving, first of all and most of all, to the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. And then loving to your teachers, thankful for the truths you are taught, attentive to the words of wisdom you have heard. And prayerful too; don't forget that. But do not pray like the little boy I heard of the other day, who said that he always said his prayers at church, and even that he said a prayer before the sermon. "You pray before the sermon, do you—what do you say?" "Now I lay me down to sleep!" I hope you will pray, but take care you never fall into the practice of praying without understanding what you pray for.

Now duty calls, and I turn to the audience in the hall. I hold in my hand a very interesting document. It is the first Report issued by the Ragged School Union at the close of its first year's work. The first annual meeting was held in the old music-hall in Store Street on the 1st of June, 1845, and amongst the Committee named in the first Report I find the names of four gentlemen who are yet alive and still take a deep interest in the work of the Ragged School Union. The President is another, and yet not another, for the president at that meeting was the Right Hon. Lord Ashley, M.P.; now he is the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G. I find your bankers were the same then as now, but the banking account was something very different. For the first year the total amount of subscriptions and donations reached the magnificent sum of £61 9s., while from the Report just read we learn that for the past year the amount collected was

£3,909 18s. 8d. Yet, magnificent as that sum is, it does not at all represent the amount of money devoted in London alone to Ragged School work; for there are hundreds and thousands of pounds which do not pass through your hands or appear in your Report, but are expended in the work by individual societies connected with particular congregations, carried on by local committees or by private individuals. In these ways and by such means a very large amount of money is spent on this kind of work by those who realise its pressing and absolute necessity. If, however, these Ragged Schools are to reach all the outcast and neglected children, it must be supported by money to a much larger extent than it has been during the past year. I believe its ability to accomplish a widespread, useful, and practical work, is only limited by the support given. Thankful as I feel for what has been done, I long that double might be done during the coming year, and it can be done if the means are only forthcoming.

I do not think it is possible to exaggerate the importance and extent of the work being done by means of this Union. If you look at page 14 of the programme in your hands, and consider what these details imply, you will be impressed greatly by the magnitude, extent, and practical usefulness of the operations. Consider the number of meetings held for the children, the different kinds of meetings held, the varied efforts for the well-being of the young, the variety of districts in which the work is carried on, the number and variety in kind of the people reached by this association. Any one who considers these facts—facts which he can verify for himself by visiting some of the schools mentioned—must be convinced that a very wide, wholesome, and beneficial influence is being exercised by this Ragged School Union. Some one may say, but these are chiefly directed towards the children—what about the parents? I do not believe you can reach the parents in any other way half so well or so effectually as you can through the children. Reach the children, and you influence the parents. It is hard, at times almost impossible, to reach the parents, but when by the power of God's Spirit you have converted the little ones, when you have reached their hearts—as they may be reached—then as lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ they will as messengers and witnesses carry—unconsciously it may be—the message of light and love into those dark and blighted homes. Their bright faces, their childish words, the hymns they have learned in your schools, their example and life, will speak more loudly and more forcefully than you can do. Win the little ones for Christ; and I believe they are not hard to win, for their hearts are still unhardened by practice and pursuit of sin. Reach and influence them, as with words of love they may be reached, and you will reach and influence their parents for good. Those who have won the affections of the children have very much power with their parents.

I find, however, as might be expected, that this Ragged School Union is dealing very directly and effectually with grown-up people as well as children. Only last week I

was reading a very interesting account of the work carried on in one of your schools—one which is under the personal superintendence of your energetic Secretary—amongst adults, an account which appeared in one of our religious periodicals. As I happen to know something of the writer of that article, I feel persuaded that I may receive it as exactly representing the kind of work and the amount of work being done in this way. No one can read that interesting narrative without coming to the conclusion that those associated with this Union are leaving no means untried for rescuing lost souls, saving those who are in danger of perishing. Of course this kind of work is one around which gathers a kind of romance. You speak of a man's past life—it has been wretched and vile. You point to the change, which is apparent to all. There is, however, little of that sort of romance connected with the equally successful and real work of the Ragged Schools. In saving the young you cannot point back on a striking change of such sort, but let it be borne in mind that in so doing you prevent all the mischief untold which comes from a misspent life, and you produce those beautiful fruits which spring from a life renewed, sanctified, and devoted to the service of God. Your efforts are preventive of much mischief, and productive to a very large extent of good. So, while I thank God for the good results which have followed your efforts to reach the grown-up people, I hesitate not to urge upon your attention the fact that your highest and best energy and skill must be devoted to seeking the young from their earliest days, to winning them to the Saviour, and to making them partakers of the blessings of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. I heartily echo the words spoken by my friend Mr. Fox, when he said that in seeking to bring these young ones to Christ we are doing the truest work for the Master, and proving ourselves the truest patriots to our country, giving to future generations reason to bless our labours.

RICHARD JOHNSON, Esq., of Manchester, said: Although I am a stranger here, I am no stranger to Ragged School work, and I am particularly glad to address this meeting, because it is composed of men and women, not merely of one party, or sect, or faith, but of those who are united heart and soul in the determination to make common cause for our Master's sake, for humanity's sake, and for the children's sake, against the sins and sorrows and ignorance and wickedness that abound on every hand in this great city. I have often thought I am so glad I didn't live a hundred years ago, not exactly because I would have been dead now, but because we are living in so much brighter and better times than our forefathers knew. No one can come to the age of fifty without rejoicing that he has been permitted to see this day. There is improvement on all sides. Take, for instance, the matter of dress. What a change! The waists used to be under the arm, the sleeves were like legs of mutton, the pockets were like big coal-scuttles.

See the improvement in science. Take, for instance, photography. When my grandfather went to have his portrait taken the artist cut it

out of a piece of black paper, and stuck it on a card.

Now, these things show us the improvement that has taken place, and just what has occurred in these matters has taken place in more important affairs. We all remember how ignorant the Ragged School children used to be. It is within my memory when we couldn't find half a dozen children in a large school who could spell out a hymn; now you'll find whole rows of ragged little fellows with string for braces and the remains of father's old breeches for clothes who will read a book as quickly as you can.

We have to thank God for the attention that has been directed to the poor children of this country. How much better they are taught than some of us were! It is within my recollection when our noble Chairman struck the fetters from the factory children, and rescued them from the grasp of the mill-owner. At five in the morning we used to see the poor ragged little children, with naked feet and pale faces, trotting to work in the mill, with a bit of bread-and-butter in their hand by way of breakfast. Now you can see them tumbling over each other's backs, romping as children should do, and learning how to read and write. Now, how has this state of things been brought about? Very much through the efforts of Lord Shaftesbury and the Ragged School influence. I am certain that the speeches and writings, the attention directed to the neglected state of the little dwellers in the slums, was the means of awakening the State to the need of some thorough endeavour to train and educate these children. I well remember when I first broached this view of the subject at a public meeting—the duty of the State to compel education—it was hotly received, and I was told: "You have no right to interfere between the parent and his children." No right! Well, if you lived on a hill-top, twenty miles away from everybody, I might have none; but when your neglected children pick my pocket, steal my watch, rob my house, then I say I have a right to compel you to educate them and teach them better things, that they shan't be a nuisance to other people. And we mean to do it too. There are men on this platform who have faced this question, by their help, their subscriptions, and their counsel, and who realise the difficulties that have had to be overcome, and the opposition which has had to be broken down, when, for instance, the followers of Roman Catholicism were banded together against the work. They can remember these things, and they will agree with me that it is not fair to overcome the educational perversity of these people and put nothing better in its place. If you educate the masses of the people and make them simply heads and nothing more; if you never go lower down than the brain, if you never go inside the waistcoat and touch the heart, you do very little good. I doubt if it is worth while filling the country with men who are nothing but big cauliflowers, all head and no heart. When Solomon prayed for wisdom, he didn't merely pray for a head stuffed with all sorts of knowledge, he asked for an understanding heart. You are apt to give boys a fictitious notion of their own posi-

tion if you only fill them with a lot of lessons, and false notions are easily put in the heads of young people. What they want is wise training as well as lessons. Teach what will best fit them for the place they've got to fill. We don't want all the girls to be fine ladies; and remember you don't keep the boys at school till they're fit to be professors. Put an apron round them and send them to work at once. What a lot we have about the streets of London, and of Manchester too for that matter, who are over-educated, but have no soul, no heart, and no religion. The betting-ring is being filled by such men to-day. They are too proud to work, and not poor enough to beg, and so they take to betting as an easy and gentlemanly way of getting money. Let us teach our scholars to be honest, industrious, hard-working men, an honour to their country and a blessing to their families. Teach them not to be greedy for gain at all hazards; better be content with an honest crust than ride in a dishonest carriage.

Now I want to tell you that work like this is no loss to the workers. I don't want to theorise about the matter. I have had experience. I've spent the best part of twenty-two years in Ragged School work. If you ask whether my piety has been most helped in the performance of my office in my particular church to which I belong, or in the Ragged School and in the poor homes I've visited, I tell you that my Christianity has been more helped in the work than anywhere else. It has done me good all over when I've been able to enter some dark, miserable, foul, hell-watched door, and bear to men and women the words and message of the Gospel. The Master has ever been true to His promise; He has been with me, and He will be with us all who do His work in the places where He would have it done. He wants His love to be carried to the lost, and when we do it He won't let us lose by it. No one gets greater blessing to himself or herself than the honest, loving Ragged School teacher; and no one learns to lay greater stress on faith in the Lord Jesus Christ than those who leave their comfortable pews in the church and go down into these miserable haunts where the devil's power is. And when the gates of Paradise are opened, and when the workers' reception is held, how grand it will be when rows of these little ragged urchins will be ready to shout, "There's the man—there's the woman that taught me about Jesus." The man who walks this earth in patient faith, the man who goes out to the slums and garrets of the city, the man who lives a life of active self-denying sacrifice, that's the man who'll win the crown in the day when their deeds shall follow them. Mere pleasures are nothing to this, when tears turn to jewels and cups of cold water turn to bands of gold to decorate our brows in the sky. When the coronation trump shall sound, and this poor tabernacle shall be raised and glorified, then shall there be coming down the streets of gold throngs of little children who shall say, "There's the man that lifted me from the gutter; there's the woman that wept over me tears of love." Then shall heaven ring with joy and we shall sit down with the King of Glory.

The Rev. Prebendary CADMAN moved—

"That this meeting, in acknowledging the lasting and important services rendered to poor and neglected children by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., desires at the same time to tender to his lordship their hearty thanks for presiding for the thirty-eighth time at the Annual Meeting of the Ragged School Union. This meeting further desires to thank Sir Robert Walter Carden, M.P., for occupying the chair on the retirement of his lordship."

He said: I rise to move this resolution with great satisfaction and pleasure, because I can speak on the subject with some experience. The first annual meeting of this Society has been referred to. Well, in 1845 I was curate, and I hope helper, to the honoured clergyman who moved the first resolution, the Hon. and Rev. H. M. Villiers, who on that occasion heard for the first time, and was charmed and encouraged by what he heard—often referring to it afterwards to me—that Christian advocate of Ragged Schools afterwards known as Counsellor Payne. Many sad and solemn memories have been awakened in my mind by the reference which has been made to that meeting, as not a few then present were friends at one time or another of my own. Counsellor Payne was regular in his attendance at my weekly service. The secretary at that meeting, Mr. William Locke, was one whom I learned to respect, and a year or two afterwards he became a member of my congregation at Park Chapel, Chelsea, where as a personal friend I had frequent opportunities of Christian counsel and holy communion on this and other subjects. Therefore I can testify, as stated in the resolution, that from the very commencement of this Ragged School Union your honoured President has taken a warm, personal, steady, persevering, pointed, and prayerful interest in this great work.

I am able also to speak, not only from experience, but also from abounding gratitude. About thirty years ago I was connected with some schools which I endeavoured to found in a parish in which I was called to labour, and the name of which has not altogether departed from the memory of some now present. Lant Street, White Street, Princes Court, and Weaver Row. With the management of these schools I had intimately to do. But why refer to all this? Because these schools could not have been established, and when they were established could not have gone on with prosperity, had not your noble President, Lord Shaftesbury, come to my aid. He asked me, "What are you going to do for the neglected population of your parish?" I mentioned to him some of my plans, and he said to me, "Well, I will place a sum at your disposal to enable you to go on with your work." It was that sum that gave me energy and encouragement and perseverance in connection with the work we carried on in that parish. Hence my moving of this resolution is not a mere formal matter, but I do feel grateful that I can testify to my recollection of those who commenced the Ragged School Union in 1844, and also that I was aided, thirty years ago, in Ragged School work by Lord Shaftesbury. During the whole of that period I have learned to thank God for the encouragement He has given

to Ragged School labours, and I have found that there are certain great principles applicable to these labours, which are of value when applied in every direction to Christian labour. I have learned lessons in my Christian ministry from the principles carried out by the Ragged Schools, and from the example afforded by such men as Mr. Villiers, Counsellor Payne, and Mr. William Locke, who have passed away, and, thank God! I may add Lord Shaftesbury, who is still among us, and of whose high Christian character and self-denying effort it is unnecessary I should speak. One special feature of his character I would ask you to remember, and that is the patience with which he sits in that chair listening to such speakers as myself, of whom most likely he may be tired. One thing I trust we shall all pray for, and that is that he may be relieved from pain, and that he may be spared for many years to give us in the future, as he has given us in the past, the example of a truly Christian nobleman, who is not ashamed to take up the cause of the very poor, and advocate it even when it is unpopular.

Now, I venture to link a few thoughts with four propositions, and then conclude. I believe the principles that have influenced the Ragged School work have been such as these:—

That we have considered the work as being work *for* Christ. We have not worked for human applause, not even for the civilisation and moral advantage of the children, but the mainspring of the Ragged School work has been that it has been undertaken *for* Christ. We have heard His voice: Take these children, and nurse them, and train them, and educate them for Me.

Then another principle has animated Ragged School work, and that is that the teachers have gone to their work *from* Christ. They have gone to it in the spirit of prayer, and in the spirit of earnest dependence upon the blessing of God's Spirit, who alone can convert the heart and savingly enlighten the understanding.

And then another principle has been connected with the work, and that is that our design has been to bring the children *to* Christ. The Ragged School teacher's object is not accomplished until he sees the children in his class brought under the constraining love of Christ.

Another principle of the Ragged School teacher's work is that it is carried out *with* Christ. It is carried out feeling that He is one with us, that He is standing by, strengthening and supporting. Their only present reward is the happiness and joy which comes from the good done the Ragged School children.

These propositions I commend to Ragged School teachers. Let their work be *for* Christ, carried on *from* Christ, done to bring the children *to* Christ, and all done *with* Christ; so shall their labour not be in vain in the Lord.

Mr. H. R. WILLIAMS, in seconding the resolution, said: I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution. Mr. Cadman said it was a pleasure to him to thank Lord Shaftesbury; it is also a pleasure to me to thank Lord Shaftesbury for presiding, and also Sir Robert Carden for succeeding his lordship. I am sure the mover of the resolu-

tion will assent to my adding Sir Robert's name, especially as we have been much indebted to him in the course of the past year for his large pecuniary help to the Society. If there be anything that gives us concern, it is the state of our funds at the present time. We are commencing life again with the wholly inadequate balance of £65, which is supposed to carry us along ever so far. It has been mentioned that the income of the Union during the first year was only £61—not a lucrative one certainly, but still sufficient for the work as it then was. Now, however, £3,309 have not been sufficient for the past year, and we have spent £550 in excess of our income. What are we to do for money if the Christian people do not come forward to our help in this great work? You have been told that the work is necessary, and absolutely must be carried on; the work of the Ragged School is indispensable to our land. We boldly, therefore, ask for your money as well as for your prayers. Those who have not abundance of this world's goods may, at least, aid us in crying to God that the needful money may be sent, and that the work may go on. So glorious and blessed a work as that of the Ragged School Union dare not close. But without the sinews of war we cannot make that great inroad upon the powers of sin and evil we should like to make.

RICHARD JOHNSON, Esq., addressing the children, said: "Them that honour Me I will honour." So says the old Book, and there's no way to gain honour except by honouring God. Now I want to tell you how you are to honour God.

First of all, by learning to paddle your own canoe. You may laugh at it, but it's true enough for all that. When I was in London last I wanted my shoes blacked, and I put my foot on the box of a sharp fellow with a red coat at the Royal Exchange. I began talking to him, and advised him to paddle his own canoe—to earn his money honestly, and be independent. He didn't say much, but when the shoes were blacked I handed him twopence. He looked at me as he touched his cap, and said, "You couldn't spare another copper to buy a paddle, could you?" Those who take care of their own interests, and do it honestly, will honour God. I like a man who can stand on his feet, and not men who, like half-empty sacks, must have something to lean against all the time. I want you to be independent, to have a moral backbone in you. Don't be afraid to do right, and you'll have the smile of God upon you.

Another way to honour God is by resisting temptation. You will be tempted; there is no sin in that, the sin comes in when you yield. We want you to be able to put your foot down and say you won't. Tell your companions you want none of their evil talk. Don't be afraid to have a clean tongue, and be sure you have clean hands, too. There were two lads playing after dinner at their father's drawing-room window. Each had a rosy apple; one had eaten an inch and a half of his, the other was only playing with it. By-and-by he dropped it into the area below. Didn't he wish he could get it! A little ragged fellow comes along, and as he caught sight of the big apple he says, "Oh, my!" He was hungry and he was sharp, so

he fished it up with a piece of string. He held it in his hand, and the boy at the window shouts, "It's mine, give it me." He looks at it, longing a bit for it. But he'd been taught in one of the Ragged Schools, and so, after a good look he pitched it up to the window, saying, "It's not mine." That little ragged fellow overcame temptation, and honoured God.

Another way you can honour God is by seeking His blessing. You boys and girls will repent some day if you go to bed without prayer; and don't forget to ask God's blessing in the morning. A little lad was going to sea, and his father made him promise never to forget his prayers. It was his first night on board; the devil was whispering, "Don't pray, they'll chaff you." He saw the rough sailors about him, and he trembled. But his father's voice seemed to sound in his ears, and in a moment off went his jacket and down he went on his knees. "Oh, here's another saint!" and flop came a boot against his head, then another, and the storm rose. Still he knelt like a hero, and by-and-by he felt another little arm come round him. It was one who had been a coward, who had been afraid to pray, but whose spirit was awakened by his example. He wept his way back to the throne, and there they knelt night after night like two Christian giants as they were. It wasn't many years till that boy walked the gangway of that ship as captain, while the men who laughed at him were still before the mast. God honoured him because he had honoured God.

The children now sang, "Give me the wings of faith to rise," after which the whole audience rose and joined in the ringing strains of "God save the Queen."

The Rev. Prebendary CADMAN then pronounced the benediction, and the proceedings of the thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Ragged School Union were brought to a conclusion.

"FOURTEEN DAYS."

A NUMBER of men parading the streets in prison garb, wearing, so to speak, their sentence emblazoned on their backs, has caused surprise and amusement to the passers-by for some weeks past. These men turned out to be a sort of perambulating play-bill, exhibiting one more of the devices to which advertisers resort, who would make a hoarding of St. Paul's Cathedral for their large posters if they dared.

Fourteen days! How these words brighten, as if each letter were a star, when it is known that it means a fortnight's run in the country amongst buttercups and daisies. Those who were at the Great Eastern Terminus in Liverpool Street on Monday, May 22nd, about 9.30, might have seen sixteen pale-faced children, who had been taken from poor and needy families existing in fœtid alleys and sunless courts, sent by

train to the neighbourhood of Cuthedge, near Halstead, to be kindly placed in cottages, housed and fed, and, where needed, clothed also.

A kind lady, Miss Courtauld, having resumed these beneficent outings for our poor children, it is hoped that some other ladies will follow suit. A fortnight's better food and better air, amidst bright and exhilarating sights and sounds, is a thorough change, and does an incalculable amount of good. This meets the condition of the few, but all need a change. Then for

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

we plead for the many children who, but for the treat given by this Society, would sigh in vain for a happy day.

Lord Shaftesbury, with his usual kindness, has sent out his annual appeal for this purpose. It is a sort of children's *billet doux*:—

"Sir,—Allow me once more to appeal to you on behalf of the annual excursion into the country for the Ragged School children.

"Every successive excursion gives a fresh proof of the great moral and physical benefit to these poor creatures, who pass a good part of their lives in dirt and darkness. Their enjoyment of it is indescribable. "I am, your obedient servant,

"SHAFTESBURY.

"24, Grosvenor Square, May 26, 1882.

"Contributions sent to Mr. Kirk, of Exeter Hall, W.C., will be gratefully acknowledged."

A WEEK IN THE COUNTRY FOR WEARY WORKERS

is provided for at High Beech, Epping Forest. The cottage to which the teachers resort is beautifully situated, and contiguous to the spot which on the 6th May was graced by Her Majesty's presence, when she declared the Forest free as a recreation ground to the people for ever.

We have many letters by us, did space permit, expressive of the benefit to body and mind of a week's change and rest. One writes:—

"With heartfelt gratitude I write this note to you, to thank you for your kindness in sending me and my wife into the country for the benefit of our health. We have come home with our strength renewed in body, likewise our spiritual strength. When looking at the wonderful works of God as manifested in the beautiful scenery so uninterruptedly displayed around us, we could not help exclaiming, 'How wonderful are Thy works, O Lord; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.'"

Another says: "We write to thank you for the very pleasant week's rest we have had at High Beech. The only wet day was Friday, but an interesting book was at hand, so that we were by no

means weary of staying indoors. During the fine days we took many nice rambles in the Forest and its vicinity. We were told that High Beech is 700 feet above the sea-level. If that be so the Ragged School Union have been very fortunate in their selection of such a charming place for the weary workers."

This outing for weary workers was a happy thought of "A. L. O. E.'s." Contributions to all these funds (the children's fortnight's outing costs the Union the railway fare) will be thankfully received at the office, 12 and 13, Exeter Hall, Strand, as indicated in the footnote to Lord Shaftesbury's letter.

BROOKSBY WALK MISSION, HOMERTON.

THE picture shows a sightly structure indicating surroundings which are not realised. It is a sort of "builder's folly," inasmuch as the neighbourhood is such as to drive away any whose means are equal to the rent of such a residence. At a reduced rental for such premises

they are held by the committee, who are desirous of purchasing them in order to enlarge in the rear, so as to secure accommodation for the conduct of various operations at the same time without mutual disturbance.

This institution is a somewhat recent claimant to Christian sympathy and support. It has only been three years at work, but in

that time, by energy and faithfulness, it has won its way to confidence, and has proved itself deserving of the liberal support so readily accorded to beneficent enterprise. There are twenty-four operations already on foot, and six more are projected. These comprise Evangelistic Services, Cottage Meetings, Temperance Meetings, Prayer Meetings, Mothers' Meetings, Mothers' Clothing Club, Free Ragged Night School, Band of Hope, Girls' Sewing Classes, Girls' Clothing Club, Soup Kitchen, Soup Suppers, Open-air Services, Bible Readings, Bible Class, Lectures, Sunday Schools, Children's Evangelistic Services, Elder Girls' Bible Class, Singing Classes, House-to-house Visitation, Tract Distribution, Christian Band, and a Boys' Club. The committee hope very soon to start and carry forward a Factory Girls' Society, Flower and Text Mission, Working Men's Club, Drum-and-Fife Band, Youths' Club, and Poor Children's Weekly Free Dinner.

There are nets of all sizes for bringing fish to land. The poor and destitute have not been promise-crammed. The hungry have been fed at the Soup Suppers, Free Teas, and Soup Kitchen, and the naked have been clothed by the Committee of Relief and through the agency of the Mothers' Meeting and Girls' Sewing Class. The old and young, as the list of operations shows, are cared for on Sundays and week evenings by Schools and Mission Services; and elder boys and girls are rescued from lettered ignorance by efficient teaching on certain two evenings weekly.

Bands of Hope and Temperance Meetings are working vigorously in the causes of cure and prevention. Many a happy evening is also spent by those whose homes offer no place of social comfort or enjoyment at the People's Pleasant Evenings. Last, but not least, the poor have had the Gospel taken to them by District Visitors and Tract Distributors.

At the annual meeting recently held in Morley Hall, Mare Street, Hackney, which was presided over by Lord Shaftesbury, the work was highly commended by him, by H. R. Williams, Esq., of the Ragged School Union, and many other ministers and gentlemen.

"Saved from Suicide" is the title of a touching story of a woman who, on her way to the dark river, was drawn aside by sweet strains of sacred praise which issued from this Mission. This forlorn woman entered, and was recognised by one who knew her, and to whom was confided the secret of her meditated self-destruction. She was kindly taken to the home of her friend, and on the following Sunday at the service she found Christ. The story says, "She lives a long way off, but has only once missed coming to the Sunday Gospel Service since that night. Surely this is a brand plucked from the burning."

Contributions will be thankfully received by W. W. Ellis, Esq., 216, Dalston Lane, Hackney, E.

RAGGED CHURCH AND CHAPEL UNION.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of this Society was held at Exeter (Lower) Hall on Monday, May 22, Mr. J. T. Campbell presiding. Prayer was offered by the Rev. J. S. Stanion, and an abstract of the annual report was read by the Rev. Burman Cassin, Rector of St. George the Martyr, Southwark. After remarking on the rapid growth of London since the establishment of the Society in 1855, the report stated that despite all that had been done to overtake the spiritual needs of the teeming myriads, there was a seething mass for which separate provision must be made. The lesson taught by the Ragged School system had been operative for good, and the Union proceeded on the same lines and pursued the same plan with corresponding success. Half a million persons in London depended upon casual employment for their support, and lived in courts and alleys, and in the lodging-houses of the city, and they could only be reached by mission agencies such as were supplied by that Union. The following is a *résumé* of the work during the past year:—104 Sunday Services, with an average attendance of 88, and aggregate attendance of 9,224; 64 Week-night Services, with an average attendance of 45, and aggregate attendance of 2,935; 37 Senior Children's Services, with average attendance of 103, and aggregate attendance of 3,823, showing a total of 13,047 persons, old and young, attending the affiliated Ragged Churches. The expenditure for the year left a balance due to the treasurer of £51 11s. 11d. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, the Revs. C. Billing, Charles Graham, and Wm. Slate, Mr. Tyler, and by Messrs. Kirkham and R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union.

NELSON STREET, CAMBERWELL.

An entertainment for the benefit of this school was recently given by Mr. J. Benn, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, in the Lower Room of Exeter Hall. The subject of blackboard portraiture and verbal illustration was the career of a London street arab. Pictures illustrative of the young urchin and his so-called parents were sketched with lightning rapidity. Mr. Benn owes his wonderful familiarity with vicious street life to the fact that his father and mother were early workers in the Ragged School cause, and to his having himself joined them in the glorious enterprise.

Correspondence.

CHRISTIAN WORK AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE.

Dear Mr. Curtis,—You have asked me for an account of my work amongst the young. I give it briefly. It was laid on my heart two years ago to propose a meeting for the lads after the Night School closed, Mr. Chorley having left that meeting to me. I began with a few lads. I found it very hard work at first, and was almost in despair, when the Lord seemed to speak to me by making me the instrument, in His hands, of leading one of the lads to Himself. He is still standing, and that is nearly two years ago. I have seen some that were almost past bearing with completely tamed, and now, instead of coming to upset, are anxious to bring others. We have also increased in numbers, getting from fourteen to twenty every week.

I am about to have a monthly tea-meeting to keep them together more firmly, for unity is strength.

I have also a class for girls, and have much cause for thankfulness. Many are asking their way to Zion, and I feel assured many, if not all, will be brought to know that Jesus is the friend of sinners and a personal Saviour. This class is also well attended. I enclose several letters received from both classes, and you are at liberty to make what use you like of them, only kindly omit the names. The youth Sidney Cunningham, whose letter I enclose, was ill, not expected to live. He wished to see me, and when taking farewell of him, as I thought, for the last time on earth, I said, "Are you afraid to die?" he said, "No." I said, "Is Jesus still precious to you?" He said, "Yes." The Lord graciously raised him up again, and he is bearing testimony to the truth.

I was much cheered on going into my class on Tuesday to see a youth that has been absent for some time. When it was over he waited for me, and told me he could hold out no longer, but was led to give himself to Christ on the evening of our meeting last week. A mother that was there took my hand at the close, and with tears in her eyes said, "Oh that my boy had been amongst them!" May the Lord bring back this wayward son!

We may speak to older people, and they take no notice; they have grown Gospel-hardened. But here are young hearts that can be touched by kindness, if we will only come down to them, not keep aloof from them. We must speak to them as friend to friend, and let them see we take an interest in them. That is my experience.

A short time back, when I was very ill, the dear youths showed their kindness to me in many forms. One who had been ill for a very long time came to see me when he was scarcely able to move about. Another came and took my hand, and could not speak for emotion. When able he fell on his knees and prayed for my recovery with much earnestness. Others would come and sit with me, and tell me how they longed to see me back again, showing unmistakably their affection for me. My prayer is, "Lord, give me wisdom to go on with this work," ever looking to Jesus, and praying for strength. He has said, "I will perfect your strength in weakness," and on that I rest.

Respecting the contributions for the Mission, we collected in the girls' class from the first Sunday in January to the last Sunday in March 6s. 8½d., given most freely. Some of them are very poor, and I know can scarcely spare the money; still they wished to give their mite, and the Lord will bless them for it. Some of the lads have not learnt that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Still some gave double, therefore the subscription was from the lads in the three months 5s. 11d.

In conclusion, may the Lord abundantly bless you. Thanking you for your company at our social gathering the other evening,

I remain, yours very faithfully,

E. Glockling.

Tottenham Square Schools and Mission,
21, Clonbrook Road, Stoke Newington.
May 10th, 1882.

The letters referred to give in detail the spiritual experience of the writers. The tone is serious and unaffected. The following is a good specimen of the style and topic treated:—

November 7th, 1881.

My Dearest Teacher,—I was very sorry to hear that you have been so ill, but I hope and trust that you will soon get better. I was very sorry to hear that you were laid aside, but the Lord knowest best. Dear teacher, I went out a little on Friday and Saturday and caught a fresh cold, so I am obliged to keep in bed myself, but I trust I shall soon be able to get up again. I have been asking the Lord to strengthen us both, which we need very much, both body and soul, and I am sure that He will do so, because He hath said whatever we ask in faith, believing, we shall receive. I have much to thank the Lord for; He has been very precious to me, and I know He is to you. "Fear thou not," He says, "for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea,

I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." We all trust that you will be restored to health again.

From your affectionate brother in Christ Jesus.

To Mrs. Glockling.

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM LOCKE, ESQ.

The late William Locke, whose eminently useful life in this world came recently and suddenly to a close, was born at Edinburgh on the 5th of July, 1807

He was educated at the High School of that city, to which he went in 1816.

In his twenty-first year he did what many of his enterprising countrymen have done—came to London to seek his fortune. Entering first the house of Messrs. Twining and Co., and subsequently that of Bedwell and Yates, he completed in this way seven years of a, so to speak, business apprenticeship. In 1835 he married. In the same year he came into intimate business connection with his brother, Mr. James Locke. The two brothers established a house for the Scotch tweed trade, and their combined skill and energy made the enterprise successful.

Through failing health he removed in 1863 to Margate, quitting business, and also relinquishing the post of Hon. Secretary to the Ragged School Union, which he had held with distinction for nearly twenty years.

Between 1863 and 1882 he resided variously at Margate, Anerley, and Brighton, removing to the latter place for the benefit of his wife's health.

In May, 1872, the year of Mr. Gent's serious illness, he came to London to see him, and remained in town in order to be present at the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Ragged School Union, on which occasion, at the Committee's request, he read the Report which had been prepared by Mr. E. J. Hytche, and occupied the chair after the noble President, the Earl of Shaftesbury, had left it.

In March, 1881, occurred the death of his wife, to whom he had been married for forty-five years. This irreparable loss was to him a heavy and irremediable blow. The light of his home had been put out. In some verses entitled "Passing Thoughts" he thus consoled himself:—

"Oh for the touch of a vanished hand!
Oh for the glance of a once bright eye!
But I shall have both in the Better Land,
When we meet again soon, 'in the sweet by-and-bye.'

"It often seems dull and dreary now,
For the sun seems gone from my once bright sky,
And absence brings sadness and clouds o'er the brow,
But all will be bright 'in the sweet by-and-bye.'"

The desire of his heart had a speedy fulfilment, for on April 14th, 1882, soon after his return home from a short visit to a few friends in and near London, more especially to Mr. Jennings, one of his oldest friends and fellow-workers in the earliest days of the Ragged School movement, he passed away to his eternal rest.

Mr. Locke was not a dreamer; he fulfilled the apostolic ideal—was not only diligent in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. His spiritual activity was not a thing of time and place. His migrations from London to Margate, from Margate to Anerley, and from Anerley to Brighton, in no way affected his Christian career. In all places he obeyed the authorit ative voice, "Occupy till I come!"

The young and the old, the neglected and uncared-for, the sick and the dying, the solitary and the forsaken, were, by the reading of the Word, by prayer, by special instruction and friendly counsel, continually the subject of his kindly ministrations.

He beautified his leisure moments with one or two literary efforts for the young, such as a Short History of England and Sermons for Children.

At Brighton he conducted for some years, and up to the time of his death, the mid-day prayer-meeting, respecting which Mr. W. Haigh Miller thus speaks:—

"Some of our readers, during an occasional visit to Brighton, may have attended the noonday prayer-meeting which is held in the Royal Pavilion there. To such of those who had the pleasure of knowing the gentleman named at the head of this paper, who we believe inaugurated the meeting in question, and who has for some years past, by his sedulous attention to it, kept, so to speak, the flames of prayer and praise burning on the altar, it will be a painful surprise to learn that Mr. Locke died suddenly at his residence at Hove, on the 14th April, aged seventy-four years. Though he was of ripe age, yet from his temperate habits, and surroundings of a nature very favourable to health, his friends had expected that he would be spared to them for a still longer period; but a sudden chill caught during a temporary visit to London brought to its height a disease of the heart under which he had been labouring, and carried him off with great rapidity. He was ready doubtless, however, for the great change, his life

having been a constant preparation for the eternal world. His presence will be missed not only at the Pavilion prayer-meeting, but in many works of Christian usefulness with which he was associated at Brighton. Mr. Locke was of so genial and kindly a character that to know him intimately was to love him. The Queen of English watering-places will be felt indeed to have lost a great charm in the eyes of many friends from a distance, who used to look forward to their meeting with Mr. Locke as one of the ingredients which made their annual visits to Brighton so very enjoyable. Mr. Locke was during his residence in London a warm and active supporter of the Ragged School movement." *

These closing remarks form a fitting prelude to the following notice of Mr. Locke's connection with—

THE ORIGIN OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

About the year 1843 Mr. Locke was the superintendent of a small Sunday School held on the first floor at No. 11, Colonnade, Brunswick Square. At that time Mr. Locke's residence was in Judd Street, only a short walk from the school, and his business in Regent Street. This school was in the district then under the official visitation of Mr. J. G. Gent, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the West London Auxiliary of the Sunday School Union. In this way Mr. Locke and Mr. Gent became acquainted with each other, and frequently conferred upon the means for increasing the efficiency of this particular school, but more especially as to the need that was apparent for some special effort to bring the very poor and neglected children of London under Christian influence. In the early part of that year Lord Ashley, in his speech in the House of Commons on the education of the working classes, referred to the neglected children of this country, and said: "Should nothing be done between 1843 and 1853 for these waifs of society, we shall have at the end of these ten years, *in addition to our present arrears, a fearful multitude of untutored savages.*" At the date of that speech the initial effort was started that has since developed into the Field Lane Ragged Schools and Refuges, and for a time was under the fostering care of Mr. S. R. Starey, known to Mr. Locke and Mr. Gent. The missionary of the district, Mr. Provan, sympathised with the effort, and did what he could to make it popular among the boys and girls of the locality. A few similar efforts were being made in other parts of London, but those conducting them knew very

* On May 22nd, at the close of the devotional service, a meeting was convened, which by resolution expressed its grateful sense of the grace of God so abundantly bestowed on their lamented friend, the late W. Locke, Esq., and by request of the meeting the resolution was forwarded to the members of the family.

little of each other. It was thought that if they could be brought together to compare notes of what was wanted, and what was being done to meet the need, something might result by co-operation that would bring under Christian influence large portions of the neglected children of London. It was arranged for a meeting to be held at Mr. Starey's residence in London, on April 11, 1844; but only four persons constituted that meeting;* nevertheless it was considered to be of sufficient importance for its minutes to form the first records of the Ragged School Union. At that meeting "notes were compared," and the result was a Resolution thus worded, moved by Mr. Locke:—

"That to give permanence, regularity, and vigour to existing Ragged Schools, and to promote the formation of new ones throughout the metropolis, it is advisable to call a meeting of superintendents, teachers, and others interested in these schools, for this purpose, and that notice be accordingly sent to the different Ragged Schools, inviting the attendance of teachers at a meeting to be held in the schoolroom, Streatham Street, Bloomsbury, on Friday, the 26th April, at 8 o'clock."

This meeting was convened as proposed, when forty friends responded to the invitation and were present. The late Mr. Branch, of the City Mission, presided. Mr. Locke took the lead, and made reference to the resolution as to improving and increasing the number of Ragged Schools; but instead of adopting it, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee of the London City Mission, for the purpose of ascertaining whether that society would undertake the work. That Committee was duly consulted, but "declined to interfere in the formation or conducting of Ragged Schools, their hands being already fully charged by the care of 102 districts of the metropolis, but wished every success, and would assist so far as sending scholars and teachers to the various schools that may exist."

At an adjourned meeting, when twenty friends attended, on May 24, 1844, it was reported that the Committee of the City Mission could not take up this work, and it was at once agreed—

"1. That this work was deserving the support of all Christians.

"2. That a Central Committee be formed, to consist of two delegates from each school, to receive and diffuse information. The first meeting to be held June 21.

"3. That Mr. Locke and two other gentlemen were requested to act as secretaries."

* It is remarkable that the *Fragment Schools* of Southwark had their origin at a meeting convened by J. R. Burchett, Esq., in May, 1799, when only *four* persons were present, and four guineas subscribed, which was enough to pay the first year's rent of the first Fragment School, opened June 16th, 1799, in the Mint.

A meeting was held on June 21st and adjourned to July 5th, when nine friends were present as representing four different schools. It was then agreed—

"1. That those present form themselves into a Committee.

"2. That the association be called the Ragged School Union.

"3. That Mr. Locke and Mr. Starey be the Hon. Secretaries to the Union."

Mr. Starey held office only for a very short time, as he had to leave London to attend business in a midland county, but Mr. Locke continued to act as the Hon. Secretary for about twenty years, and retired in 1863. He then became one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society. On the retirement of Mr. Starey, Mr. Locke invited Mr. Gent, who was one of the Committee, to accept the office, which he did, and afterwards was invited to give his undivided attention to the new Society; but while he did not feel free to relinquish his professional engagements, yet he was quite willing to continue to act as Assistant, Secretary to Mr. Locke. It was, however, soon made more apparent that it was essential to employ some one to give his entire time to the office, and the application was again made by Mr. Locke to Mr. Gent to undertake and give his entire attention to the full duties of the office. He assented, and continued to fill that post until failing health compelled his retirement at the beginning of 1880.

At the meeting held in November, 1844, when the new Society was designated the Ragged School Union, Mr. Locke proposed to apply to Lord Ashley to become President, and George Hitchcock, Esq., to be Treasurer. The latter at that time was in low health, and not equal to undertake new duties, but warmly espoused the new cause, at once gave it a donation of £10 10s., and promised considerably more if the Society were carried on with energy and spirit. Lord Ashley responded by sending the following note to Mr. Locke:—

"November 21st, 1844.

"Sir,—At the instant I had the pleasure of receiving your letter I was contemplating a walk to Field Lane, that I might hear what progress was being made in your admirable undertaking.

"I shall be happy to aid you to the full extent of my power, but I am disposed to advise a little deliberation before we set up a Society with all the apparatus of a President and Patrons. I shall return to London, I hope, on Monday next; it will then give me pleasure to see you and hear your report. We may, I think, do much for these poor children.

"God be with us!

"Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) "Ashley."

With this acceptable note came the first payment of a continuous subscription of £5 to the Society from his lordship.

Mr. Locke succeeded in his invitation to R. C. L. Bevan, Esq., to accept the office of Treasurer, which has been held by that gentleman to the present time—a period of thirty-eight years.

Mr. Locke was unceasing and indefatigable in his efforts, especially his early efforts, in the Ragged School cause, not only in promoting the interests of the Parent Society, but in aiding to form new schools where needed, increasing the efficiency of the older ones, and in all, both in town and country, inciting to put forth every auxiliary effort, that in any degree was likely to improve the religious, social, or physical condition of the neglected poor, especially the juvenile poor.

We have referred to the fear expressed by Lord Ashley in 1843, that if nothing was done to ameliorate the condition of the poor, within the succeeding ten years the condition of London would be awful. In 1853 Lord Ashley had become the Earl of Shaftesbury, and he made his own report on the results of the Christian labours put forth during those ten years. He said, on May 9th, 1853, to an assembly of some thousands of persons:—"You may view the benefits that have flowed from our operations in two lights. You may take them as negative and positive; you may consider how much evil we have prevented. I appeal to any man of experience—I appeal to any man of knowledge and judgment in this vast assembly—to tell me what would have been the state of things in this overgrown metropolis at the present hour if God not had put it into the hearts of these good people some years ago to come forward in the great work of the evangelisation of the poor children and adults of this great city. Depend upon it, this city and this country would not have been governable by the largest standing army that could be brought together. And now you see, what scarcely any foreigner coming from the continent of Europe will believe; he comes into this city and sees two millions and a half of human beings kept in order by two regiments, perhaps, of guards, and by a few hundred fellows in blue coats buttoned up to their chins. This is the result of your going amongst these people, of training them in habits of self-control, and infusing into their minds those principles without which no country deserves, and certainly no country can long retain, its political freedom. But you have done another good. You have instituted examples which are now imitated over the length and breadth of the land. Ragged Schools are arising, not only in every great town of this country, but are arising even in Ireland, and they have long flourished in Scotland. You undertook a prodigious, and by no means an easy task. I should have said, some years ago, that the task we had undertaken was one that we ought to commence,

because the will of God and every right principle required it; but I should have said that it was a matter to try our faith, that there was but little room for hope. But I entertain now a very different view. I see such great improvement among the mass of the people, owing to the various agencies that have been set on foot, that I am very sanguine of great success."

Lord Shaftesbury waited till the end of the third ten years, and then again reported on the results of work done. In 1876 he said:—"After the lapse of thirty years, we still have all our faculties in vigorous exercise. During that period we have taken off the streets tens of thousands of children who would otherwise have added to the numbers of the dangerous classes. Altogether we have rescued 220,000 children from the lowest state of wretchedness, and we have placed them in positions in which they are of use to society; we have put children of this class into the army and navy, we have put them into trade, and we have put them into domestic service. We have, I say, during those thirty years dealt with 220,000 children, who, but for our efforts, might have turned the metropolis into a city of devils, and made it unmanagable even by 20,000 policemen. These are achievements upon which we look back with gratitude."

Such a statement is a song of triumph. No more eloquent eulogy could be pronounced on the honoured few who initiated the Ragged School movement, amongst whom Mr. William Locke was conspicuous. He rests from his labours and his works do follow him. In the following letter Lord Shaftesbury lays a wreath upon his tomb:—

"24, Grosvenor Square, W., May 20th, 1882.

"Sir,—All who have had anything to do with the Ragged School movement, particularly those who, like myself, have been connected with it from the beginning, must be impressed by the loss we have sustained in the death of our earliest friend and coadjutor, Mr. William Locke.

"His heart was fully in the service, and so long as he resided in London he gave us the benefit of his judgment, zeal, and energy, in furtherance of the work.

"I may speak, in my own name, of his claims on our regard; and I think that I am speaking the sentiments of many others.

"Your obedient servant,

"SHAFTESBURY.

"To the Editor of the *Ragged School Union Quarterly Record*."

MR. JOHN JONES.

On Wednesday, the 12th April, there passed away to his eternal rest one little known to the world at large, but whose name was a power in the locality in which his lot was cast. For twenty-one years Mr. John Jones had been the paid master of the Croydon Ragged School.

Previously to his accepting this post he had roved much, and seen life in many of its phases. The experience thus gained had enlarged his mental vision, and given him an insight into character which proved of no slight use in dealing with a class of children such as those committed to his care. Drawn from homes where vice in one form or another was but too frequently present, and of which poverty was the too certain consequence, these little ones required a judgment and a care in their treatment which few men could exercise.

But Mr. Jones's powers of discrimination enabled him to deal with each child according to its bent and the nature of its surroundings.

By tempering firmness with kindness, he maintained unbroken order and discipline, and established his authority on an immoveable basis. Religion was not only the subject of regular and constant instruction, but was made as far as possible the atmosphere of the school.

Many were the efforts made to win the little ones to good, to form in them right habits, to make them good citizens here, and to fit them for their future heritage of glory.

The Clothing Club, the School Library, the Bands of Hope and of Mercy, and the Sunday Morning Children's Service, were all either initiated or promoted by him.

And in the course of this life of active usefulness he saw one generation of school life succeed another, until the children of his former scholars sat at the desks their parents had occupied. Thus, known, trusted, and loved, he was the friend, the helper, and the counsellor of the poor. He found places for their children, gave them sound advice when needed, settled their disputes, and made their wills, although these seldom appeared in the Prerogative Court.

It is no wonder, then, that his personal influence made itself deeply felt in the neighbourhood, so that it was no uncommon thing to hear a mother remonstrating with a child with "What will the master say?"

In time the work so grew on Mr. Jones that he scarce cared to move away from the school and its surroundings, even for the exercise which is due to health, until at last what men call accident compelled a retirement which hitherto he had only sought of his own will.

It happened that about seven or eight years since he was engaged

one summer's evening in training a vine which grew outside his cottage, when the ladder on which he was standing broke; he fell to the ground, and in his fall fractured his thigh. A long and serious illness was the result, and at times his life was despaired of, but it pleased his Heavenly Father to spare him for a further term of service, and he was restored; but it was as a cripple—he never walked again. The muscles of the leg did not recover their power, and being a heavy man he could not well support himself on crutches, but was reduced to a chair on wheels. In the movement of this by his hands he soon acquired such dexterity that if a child at one end of the schoolroom was causing a disburbance he could convey himself from the opposite end before the noise ceased.

Though the blight which thus fell on his life was a heavy one he bore it without a murmer.

His zeal never flagged, and in spite of the difficulties of his position, he carried on his work with undiminished energy, maintaining the same discipline, and, with a little help, teaching as of old. His bright, cheerful countenance and his venerable white head were a pleasant picture.

But the confinement began to tell on his health. He became subject to bronchitis, the last attack of which proved fatal.

He was laid in his last resting-place in Croydon Cemetery amid general regret.

Many of the schoolchildren gathered round his grave, and with signs of childish grief strewed with flowers the coffin of the master they loved.

An attached member of the Church of England to the end, his catholic spirit yet welcomed all who were serving his Master by whatever name known amongst men, and so impartially did he carry out the rules of the school that even the semblance of proselytism was never discovered.

To say that he was a man is to say that he was not perfect, but his failings sink into insignificance in view of his long and earnest service, and the good that resulted from it; and there is no reason to doubt that his reward will be great.

Mr. Jones has left a widow, who was his helpmeet in the school as well as at the fireside, and several children, to mourn his loss.

Notices of Books.

A Short and Simple History of England, being one of "Lockwood's Elementary School Series." Twenty-second edition. Bound in cloth. Price 1s. (Crosby Lockwood and Co., 7, Stationers' Hall Court.)

This is a very readable and instructive book. The child that masters it will have its appetite not cloyed but sharpened for a fuller meal on events and great passages of history for which his country is famed. For the school bag or the library shelf it is equally fitted.

Gaol Birds at Large. By the "Amateur Casual." Price 6d. (E. C. Longley, 39, Warwick Lane.)

This book is a reprint of articles by James Greenwood which have appeared from time to time in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph*. Such a book should not only be read by the humane and philanthropic, but also by those who take life easily and are either stone-blind or coldly indifferent to the crime and misery by which they are surrounded. An insight into the strange life of the lowest stratum of society is given, and the sad picture of lives literally flung to ruin from the cradle are graphically and touchingly portrayed.

Tales of Trust, embracing authentic accounts of Providential Guidance, Assistance, and Deliverance. Written and selected by H. L. Hastings, Editor of the *Christian* (America). (S. Bagster and Sons, 15, Paternoster Row; and H. L. Hastings, 47, Cornhill, U.S.)

The incidents selected are of a most interesting character. Such persons as recoil from narratives of Providential interposition will do well to read this book, for the stories are so well accredited as to prove to all but the hopelessly incredulous that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in their philosophy." Other persons of unquestioned piety, but who, from temperament or other causes, are needlessly dispirited and crestfallen, will find the instances recorded act like a bracing air or an efficacious tonic, realising to them the truth of Cowper's grand lines—

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform."

The Bridge of Choice. For Bands of Hope, &c. Plain, 1d.; on stiff paper, coloured, 4d. (S. W. Partridge and Co., 9, Paternoster Row.)

This broadsheet of illustrations, depicting the outcomes of sobriety and intemperance, will be useful to many. Through the eye to the heart is a wise method, and those who are sensible of its advantages will do well to buy this for home or school use.

Lessons from Bible Private Soldiers. By the Rev. E. J. Hytche. (4, Trafalgar Square, W.C.)

This book was written as a labour of love for the Army Scripture Readers' and Soldiers' Friend Society. The lessons are short, direct, and pithy.

Notices of Meetings.

FOX COURT RAGGED SCHOOLS PARENTS' ANNUAL MEETING.

The Benchers of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn have, for many years past, granted the use of their ancient and noble hall for the purposes of the annual meeting of the parents connected with these Schools. On Thursday, 2nd March, about 350 fathers and mothers assembled in this magnificent hall. A substantial meal was provided. At seven o'clock the chair was taken by the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G. The programme of the evening included several addresses interspersed with music. Mr. Thomas Fagg, the hon. secretary, then called the attention of the parents to the various operations carried on for the benefit of themselves and their children. The agencies at work for their good were carried on at a great outlay, the annual expenditure amounting to upwards of £400. Of this sum one-fifth part only was provided by annual subscribers. They were, therefore, indebted to many generous friends; amongst these were their noble President, the Benchers of Gray's Inn, and Sir Robert W. Carden, from whom a letter had just been received expressing his regret at being unable to be present, and enclosing his cheque for £10 10s. for the School Fund The year's accounts had been closed free of debt. He called attention to the Day School for Infants; during the year, 6,994 free breakfasts of boiled milk and bread had been given to the little ones; and during the winter months 2,392 dinners had been given at a small charge to the little hungry ones. There were Sunday Schools, Week Night Schools, Infant Day Schools, Mission Services, Mothers' Meetings, Bible Classes, Singing Classes, Clothing Clubs, Coal Clubs, Free Lending Library, Christian Bands, Juvenile Sabbath Union, and Penny Banks, with 719 depositors.

Mrs. Elcum now, in the name of the parents and children connected with the Fox Court Ragged Schools, presented Lord Shaftesbury with a handsome Family Bible, containing the following inscription:—

"Presented to the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., by the parents and children connected with the Fox Court Ragged Schools, Gray's Inn Road, Holborn, as an expression of their sincere appreciation of his lordship's unvarying sympathy and kindness as President of the Institution. March 2nd, 1882.

"Matt. xxv. 34 to 40."

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, having graciously received the testimonial, said:—I cannot express to you how thankful I feel for your kindness in presenting me with this beautiful book. I receive it with much gratification, and with very deep satisfaction that my small service in connection with your schools should have been thought worthy of such a mark of appreciation. Above all other books, I confess I like to receive a copy of the Scriptures. The book you have given me will go down to my country house, there to occupy its

place beside the forty or fifty such Bibles presented to me from time to time. This Bible you have given me will be placed next the Bible I received from the Bible Society when it had existed for fifty years, and on the occasion of the celebration of its jubilee. This Bible and that will go together so long as I have breath in my body; and when I am called from earth, they will go down as cherished heirlooms in my family. You have heard from Mr. Fagg a short but model statement of the departments of this institution, and of the good effected by them. Look at the various branches of this institution. You have had a long list mentioned to you by the secretary; but none are superfluous. Every one of them is good and beneficent. Not one, however, is of greater importance than the Juvenile Sabbath Band. You mothers, I implore you to put no hindrances in the way of your children in the matter of observing the Lord's day. It is through the children we must save the nation.

His lordship having retired, the chair was taken by the Rev. A. Taylor.

Miss Annie Macpherson gave to the mothers a touching address, and told them how she sought to save the children of the East End, how she had taken 3,000 to Canada, and how about 20,000 children had passed under her care.

Rev. J. H. Moran, Rev. T. Harley, Messrs. Baum and Fry, and Kirk and Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, addressed the meeting.

GRAVESEND RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of this institution was held at the Assembly Rooms, Harmer Street, recently. In the absence of the Mayor, who was prevented through illness from presiding, his father (Dr. Armstrong) occupied the chair, and was supported by several ministers and other gentlemen.

The Chairman entreated them to ask God's blessing upon their proceedings.

Mr. W. G. Penman read the annual report, which was of a most satisfactory character. The committee made an earnest appeal for more teachers.

Mr. W. Box (treasurer) read the balance-sheet, which showed that there was a debt of £50 due to the treasurer.

The Rev. R. Balgarnie moved the adoption of the report, and said he felt that every one had been delighted at the firm, hopeful tone of the report, which stated that 300 children were under instruction at the Ragged School.

Mr. B. Tabrum (from the Ragged School Union) seconded the resolution, and gave a detailed account of the great benefits which accrue from Ragged School work.

The Rev. T. F. Touzeau, Mr. Frank Beasley, of Rochester, Mr. Penman, and Mr. John Arundel also spoke.

Mr. I. C. Johnson said: Some years ago I stood on this platform to advocate the cause of Ragged Schools, and I was a contributor to the funds; but, when the Board Schools came into operation, I had a notion that those schools would entirely absorb the children of the Ragged Schools, and would render Ragged Schools altogether unnecessary. I made a great mistake. My notion that it was a mistake has been strengthened by reading a little book that the secretary kindly sent

me. It was written by the authoress of "Jessica's First Prayer," Miss Hesba Stretton; and I think that if the friends who are here to-night would obtain a copy it would assist them in their sympathies with Ragged School work. Many who were formerly gutter children are now occupying important positions—raised from poverty and crime by the education given at the Ragged Schools. I have one case—and that is only a type of a great number—of a little ragged boy taken by a gentleman I know, a scientific man. The boy showed an aptitude for the work, and he is now an analytical chemist.

The collection and amounts promised, with the grant of £5 from the Ragged School Union, cleared off the debt.

STOKE NEWINGTON.—MEETING OF OLD SCHOLARS.

The meeting on April 20th was for the old and present scholars of the Stoke Newington Night School for women and girls (which was commenced on the 31st December, 1874), and among the speakers were Messrs. A. A. Mead, Hannaford, and Forsaith, and Mr. R. J. Curtis, one of the secretaries of the Ragged School Union. The chair was taken by the Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, secretary to the London Missionary Society, who distributed the prizes at the close of the meeting for good conduct and attendance. About 150 young people were present, who, previous to the meeting, sat down to an ample free tea.

The school has extended its operations. In addition to the other ways of benefiting the poor in the neighbourhood, there is now a Bible-woman working on the district already occupied by two Bible-women nurses. The Bible-woman is no expense to the institution. She entirely, and one of the nurses partly, are maintained by the London Bible and Domestic Female Mission. The nurses are a most interesting and useful part of the work.

The Coal Club is self-supporting, and is much valued. The Lending Library, which has been some time suspended, will shortly resume operations.

HATFIELD STREET RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The annual public meeting was held recently in the large school-room, Hatfield Street, Goswell Road, the chair being occupied by Mr. W. Morley. Amongst those present were the Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., Mr. R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union), Mr. Hilton, the Rev. J. Morgan, Mr. J. C. Page, &c. The hon. secretary, Mr. Rowbottom, read the thirty-fourth report, which stated that all the agencies had been kept in active operation. Notwithstanding the wholesale demolition of the houses of the poor in the neighbourhood, the attendance had not decreased. The work during the year comprised Sunday Ragged School, Sewing Classes for girls, Gospel Services, Mission Services for children, Penny Bank, Band of Hope, Adult Temperance Society, winter and summer Treats, classes for Reading, Writing, &c., Sunday Breakfasts, Dinners for needy children (2,280 having been given during the winter), Soup Kitchen, Libraries, and Mission work. The receipts during the year amounted to £176, and a balance in hand of £7 still remained to commence the financial year. Ad-

dresses were delivered by the Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., Rev. John Morgan, Mr. R. J. Curtis, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Page, and the chairman; and the proceedings closed by prayer.

GEORGE YARD RAGGED SCHOOLS.

At the twenty-eighth anniversary of these schools, recently celebrated, the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., presided. Mr. G. Holland, the secretary, read the annual report. During the year the institution had been open for children 782 times, for young people 362 times, and for adults 656 times, making in all 1,800. The total number of attendances was 287,334. The account of the various missions, &c., carried on during the year, tended to show the eminently practical character of the institution, and the vast number who had been benefited in various ways. The Rev. A. J. Robinson moved, and the Rev. Geo. Davenport seconded, the adoption of the report, which was carried. The Rev. Mr. Briggs, Mr. J. Kirk (of the Ragged School Union), Dr. Cory, and Mr. Thomas Woodley, C.C., having addressed the meeting,

The Earl of Shaftesbury said he had heard a great many reports read, but never till that evening had he heard a more full or more satisfactory one. He had noticed on the placards that the words "Ragged Schools" were said not to be sufficiently definite. That might be true, but he could not allow "George" (Mr. G. Holland) to part with that word "ragged." It was a valuable word, it was a sacred word, and denoted the class and character of the schools. By the word "ragged" it was implied that children were taken out of the streets in a ragged condition and turned out clothed. With regard to the infant nurseries, the mothers were not discharged of all maternal obligations, nor were their maternal duties wholly taken away. They paid what they could to maintain their children in a place where they knew they would get at least good food and fresh air, instead of leaving them under the care of an old woman with more affection for her pipe than the child. The baths and lavatories were also important adjuncts to the schools. The mission to elder girls and young women, his lordship next observed, was worthy of all praise. There were difficulties, he knew, in reaching many people, since there were, according to the latest statistics, no less than 150,000 people who had never lived more than three months in one place.

MAIDA HILL INDUSTRIAL AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting of the above schools was held on Tuesday evening, April 25th, in the Infant School-room, Richmond Street, when the chair was occupied by Mr. George Hanbury, who was well supported by ministers and other gentlemen. The boys of the Home, attired in their clean working dress, sang a number of secular pieces under the direction of Mr. Amor.

Mr. G. H. Fryer read the report, which stated that it was thirty-six years since the work of the institution was commenced by the late Mr. Bromley, by gathering into a night school the poor ignorant and neglected children of the neighbourhood, it being one of the first Ragged Schools in London. Thousands of poor children had since received religious and secular instruction in

the schools, and nearly one thousand orphan and destitute boys had been trained in their Refuge and Industrial Home. There had been an average of 31 inmates during the year in the Home, 22 of whom had been employed at printing and paper-bag making, and attending the day school, whilst nine had been engaged in situations, continuing to lodge in the Home and paying for their accommodation. The total receipts for work done and payments by the boys going out to work amounted to £630 16s. 2½d., leaving a balance of £364 0s. 1d. available towards the general cost of provisions, rent, taxes, salaries, clothing, and house and school expenses. The operations now included a Ragged School for Boys and Girls, a Girls' Sewing Class, the Industrial School for Boys, a Home for Orphan and Destitute Boys, a Lodging-house for Young Men or Boys, a Free Registry for Errand Boys, a Provident Bank, and a School Library.

Major-General Lowry, C.B., Mr. Shipton, the Rev. J. G. Tanner, Mr. Amor, Major Deane, and the Rev. Frank Nevill addressed the meeting.

SERMON LANE MISSION.

The annual meeting was held on March 28th, at Myddelton Hall, Islington. After tea the chair was taken by Mr. C. Ogden.

On the platform were the Rev. E. Stuart, vicar of St. James's, Holloway, and the Rev. Ishmael Jones, minister of the Wesleyan Chapel, Liverpool Road; Messrs. Kirkham, Lamont, Miller, Lewis, Cooksey, and R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union).

The report showed a great amount of useful work done by the Mission. The Gospel is preached twice every Sunday by gentlemen of different evangelical denominations. The Gospel is again preached on a week-day evening. There is a Sunday School overflowing with children (that on Sunday night is so full as to call for enlargement of premises), and a week-night class for reading and writing also. A Gospel total abstinence society combats the demon of intemperance, and in a Band of Hope the young are enlisted in the same good cause. The mission stretches out its arms of sympathy to the most degraded, having occasional midnight meetings for the fallen, a soup-kitchen for the half-starved in winter, and breakfasts for social waifs and wanderers during the chilly season of the year.

The success of this modest little mission may, under the Divine blessing, be largely attributed to a united committee and the fervent labours of its superintendent, Mr. Fuller.

The speakers were unanimous in heartily advocating the claims of the mission, and recommending it to the support of the Christian public.

HOLLOWAY RAGGED SCHOOL AND INFANT NURSERY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Monday, April 24th. The attendance, although not large, was representative. The Rev. Mark Wilks took the chair, and was supported by Mr. Curtis (Ragged School Union), the Rev. George Plaford (chaplain of Holloway Prison), Mr. Haig Miller, and Mr. Hassell. The Rev. F. A. C. Lillingston and Mr. Wall, both of whom take a warm interest in the work, were prevented from being present.

Mr. W. Blyth (the hon. sec.) read the annual report, which gave an encouraging account of the work done by the various operations of the society, and Mr. Jecks, the treasurer's statement, which showed a small balance to the credit of the institution.

Mr. Wilks moved the first formal resolution, which related to the appointment of office-bearers and committee. The work done by the mission, he remarked, is of two kinds —first, social, including thrift and prudence, and the ordinary affairs of daily life; secondly, religious and moral, and also the elementary intellectual. These may be mixed up together, but they may also be kept apart. The success of the Crèche, Mr. Wilks attributed to the fact that it is managed by ladies who are deeply interested in the matter, and not, as in the Board School "baby-rooms," where the children are left to the care of indigent women who have not much interest in them. The establishment of these baby-rooms, of which there are ten or more under the management of the Board, was decided upon so as to ensure the school attendance of the elder children who might otherwise be kept at home as care-takers, but their formation was opposed by Mr. Wilks, and the result has not been a success. In his opinion they are in no respects comparable to the Ingram Place Nursery. In connection with the Penny Bank, Mr. Wilks said that he had a scheme for connecting such an institution with every Board School, but some delicacy was received in advocating it, as it might be misunderstood. Ratepayers might think that parents whose children were able to lay by money ought to be able to pay higher fees, and it was not his aim to raise, but rather to keep the fees low. Referring to the moral and religious teaching of the mission, Mr. Wilks touched upon the question, Why is it that we do not find the poor in our churches? They have social religious wants which must be immediately met, and both Church and Dissent are too respectable to feel interest, *socially*, in the poor. The poor *must* have society, and this social life is given by the mission, and is such as no other classes of the religious comunity can give. For this reason the Primitive Methodists are most successful among the poor. They have their meetings every evening, and frequent teas and gatherings, where there is a freedom and social life which cannot be had in churches. The poor want the fostering care of an institution like the Ingram Place Mission—some place where a certain moral equality in the sight of God is recognised. Teaching must keep place with this, far more indeed than has ever been attempted by either Primitive Methodist or Salvation Army. Their scheme of the Moral Universe had no doubt its interest for them, and may lead to something higher, but it is a great mistake to avoid all intellectual form. To teach a childlike religion it is not necessary to teach it in a childish way. Be bright and wise even to the stupid. Dickens speaks of a poor Italian who came to London, not knowing a word of English, and the poor woman who lived in the same street used to *try* to make him understand by speaking to him in broken English! We must not degrade religion by low metaphors and

images, but must train by wisdom and true intelligence drawn from a large experience. In religion there are three elements which are common to all, faith, hope, and charity—these elements which appeal to all and form a twisted cord binding man to God and to his fellows. We must seek to create these elements, or awaken them in the very rudest of minds, and lay them out with every illustration which we can gather from experience and the common things life. The quality of the work is of the first importance, and patient perseverance in it from day to day. We are not to be disheartened because the number of the workers is few—the formation of this social friendly life and of religious emotions is best produced by a few; nor are we to be discouraged by slow progress — the great physical forces accomplish their work in a silent and slow manner. So in the moral, intellectual, and social world, results such as we aim at will be reached at length by the patient work of repeated agencies.

Mr. Curtis (of the Ragged School Union) seconded the resolution.

Mr. W. Haig Miller, Mr. Henry Bloomer, the Rev. G. Plaford, Mr. J. Hassell, Mr. Jecks, and Mr. Taylor also addressed the meeting.

OGLE MEWS RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the supporters of the Ogle Mews Ragged Schools, Foley Street, Great Portland Street, Marylebone, was held on Tuesday evening, May 2nd, when the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Alderman J. Whittaker Ellis), who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, presided, his lordship being supported by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Hanson, Mr. Sheriff Ogg, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P. (president of the schools), and others.

Mr. F. Pitts read the report of the school work, which comprises Sunday Afternoon and Evening Schools, Day Schools, Infants' Nursery, Penny Dinners, Library, Savings Bank, Mothers' Meeting, Clothing Club, Band of Hope, and Youths' Institute.

The Lord Mayor addressed the meeting, and referred to the necessity of all classes of society endeavouring to help those who might be a little less able than themselves to struggle with the world. He also spoke of the great benefits and advantages which had accrued to the general interests of the whole country by the work that had been carried out by those who originally established what were called Ragged Schools. The report of the work carried on at the schools was a compendium of benevolence and philanthropy, and it was here that, in the earliest dawn of life, these poor children were taught the principles of the Christian religion.

Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Hanson drew attention to the fact that the school was not antagonistic to the School Board, but its object was to supplement and support the work of that body, and to reach certain classes that the efforts of the School Board could not at present reach.

The Rev. Prebendary Cadman said that this Ragged School was established before the the School Board, and to put things in the right place, the School Board was supplementary to Ragged Schools. Notwithstanding all that had been done by the School Board,

there was a want which neither national schools nor Board schools had yet supplied—to gather ragged and neglected children into some course of education. There was one point which characterised Ragged School instruction which they must wish to maintain—he meant the principle of kindness and love—that kindness and love not being put on, but really coming from the heart, full of love constrained by the great Lover of Souls.

Mr. Sheriff Ogg said he had great pleasure in being able to be present and to bear testimony to the good done by Ragged Schools, and congratulated the committee on the continued success of their efforts.

The Rev. J. J. Coxhead (a member of the London School Board) justified the existence of Ragged Schools on the ground that many of them were good schools, and said that the School Board had ascertained that there were parts of London in which poverty was so severe that even a penny per week deterred children from coming to school, and in certain districts they were going to establish free schools.

The Rev. W. R. Mowll said that the main object of Ragged School work was to bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ home to the hearts of the poor children in our streets, thereby elevating them and enabling them to occupy respectable positions in after life. He felt sure that these institutions would be absolutely necessary for a long time to come, as they afforded a rendezvous for a class of children that could not be induced to enter our regular schools. Not only was a free secular education given to the destitute during the day, with the addition of a good dinner for one penny, but in the evening the lads of the district were able to meet together and enjoy themselves in a legitimate manner without being subjected to the many temptations of the public-house. Incident after incident might be cited of what had been accomplished by this one branch of the work during the past year, and as the necessity for the organisation was as great as ever, he earnestly appealed to all present to become annual subscribers, if only for a small amount, so that the committee might not feel any anxiety with regard to the future.

Alderman Sir R.W. Carden, M.P., briefly addressed the meeting, contending that Ragged School work could point to results which could not be seen from School Boad work, alluding especially to the presentations which were about to take place at the meeting of the Ragged School Union to those children who had conducted themselves well in their situations. He loved each child in that school, and he was sure that they loved him too.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and it was stated that the former had given ten guineas and the latter five guineas each. The benediction having been pronounced, the meeting terminated.

KINGSLAND MISSION.—YOUTHS' BIBLE CLASS.

The annual tea and entertainment given in connection with the above class was held in the Mission Hall, Tottenham Square, on Tuesday, May 2nd, when a large number of friends, in addition to the class, sat down to tea. After tea the public

meeting was held, presided over by Albert A. Head, Esq.

From a statement by the superintendent of the Mission, Mr. W. Chorley, it was shown that the present encouraging position of the class was due, instrumentally, to the kindly, persistent exertions of the teacher, Mrs. Glockling, whose labours were not confined to this useful sphere, nor were her activities restrained to the winter months. During the past season she had taken a large and active share in the Ragged School three nights a week, besides her own classes on separate evenings.

The lads themselves shared in the pleasure of the evening by rendering several well-repeated pieces, and sang some hymns. These were supplemented by powerful addresses by Mr. Chas. Hart and Mr. Geo. Hughes, by the chairman, and by Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union.

Some of the lads, we learnt, were going up to take prizes at the annual meeting of the Ragged School Union the following week for keeping their situations with good character.

A most edifying meeting was brought to a close by Mr. W. Ward, the treasurer of the Mission, earnestly supplicating the Divine blessing upon the good work and all concerned.

GRAY'S YARD CHURCH AND RAGGED SCHOOL.

The forty-seventh anniversary meeting was held on the 15th May under the presidency of Mr. Hanbury, assisted by the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, the Hon. Henry Noel, the Rev. Donald Fraser, the Rev. Dr. Paterson, Mr. Gurney Shepherd, J. H. Buckingham, Esq., Mr. R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union), Mr. James Edmunds, hon. secretary, and other gentlemen.

The report set forth the work that had been done during the past year. This included, among other items, Sunday morning, afternoon, and evening School for children, Children's Church, Bible Classes, Free Lectures to adults, Mothers' Meetings, Penny Bank, Band of Hope, Sewing Classes, Library, and Free Dinners to the outcasts during the winter months, over 2,000 having been distributed during the winter months of the past year. Then there are Scholars' Prizes for youths of each sex who have kept their situations for over twelve months; Maternal and Dorcas Society, and other aids, which involve a great draw upon the funds of the institution, and still more so upon the kindness, energies, and health of the teachers and workers. In short, it is impossible to estimate the amount of good which this institution is the means of effecting in a quiet, unobtrusive manner. The balance-sheet shows that £727 has been expended during the year in carrying out the foregoing objects, and that a deficit of £56 has been incurred in two branches—Ragged School and the Church movement—which had to be repaid from other sources of income. Help in money or kind is urgently needed in order to continue the good work. Books, clothing, and personal help are all as acceptable in their way as money.

The Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D., remarked that the only way to reach and touch the unconverted masses of the large towns in this and other lands with the healing influences of evangelical truth was through the

children, and he therefore most heartily approved of the good work in which this society was engaged.

The meeting was also ably addressed by several other gentlemen, and by J. H. Buckingham, Esq., of the Ragged School Union, who corrected some serious misapprehensions into which the chairman had fallen respecting the extent of Ragged School work, which met with a hearty response from the meeting.

The children sang several hymns in a pleasing style.

THE MILLWALL JUVENILE MISSION was reopened by prayer and praise on Sunday, the 14th May, and celebrated by a tea and public meeting on the Tuesday following.

After tea, J. S. Wood, superintendent of the Millwall Docks, occupied the chair, and called on the secretary to read the report, which stated that the Mission had been closed to enable them to add the ground floor, which was formerly used for a stable. The expenses were £42 2s. 8d., and the income from all sources was £27 12s. 9d., which left a debt of £14 9s. 11d., £6 of which was due to the Dock Company for wood. The chairman had kindly promised to give £1 towards it. The remainder was due to Mr. J. H. Morgan, the treasurer of the Mission. The cause of the debt was through being compelled to erect iron stairs, which cost £10 12s. 11d., and having also to remove about twelve loads of stuff, and putting in concrete, which cost over £4. These two items were not anticipated. These figures do not represent the money value of what they saw. Mr. Thomas, of the *East End News* office, gave about £7 worth of gas and wood fittings. Business and trades people had shown much kindness, some supplying material, others supplying articles at cost price. Nearly the whole of the labour had been done by the teachers. If the whole work had been paid for, £100 would not cover the cost. The amount of the bill was £42, towards which the Ragged School Union gave £10. Weekly subscriptions of the workers and other sums amounted to £27 12s. 9d. Debt £14 7s. 3d.

Mr. R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union), Messrs. Court, Chorley, Paynter, Miles, and others addressed the meeting.

STEPHEN THE YEOMAN RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

The twenty-second annual meeting of this mission was held on Tuesday evening, April 25th, in the Ragged School, Marigold Place, Bermondsey. The chair was occupied by Lord Shaftesbury, who was supported by the Revs. J. Farren, G. Lester, W. Allan (vicar of St. James), W. J. Stobart (vicar of St. Augustine's), and other friends.

Mr. John Menzies, the superintendent, read the annual report, which stated that with 1881 ended an era in the history of the mission. For twenty-two years the work had been constantly progressive. Commencing in 1859 with a little school in Marigold Place, it steadily grew in magnitude, new agencies being added as Providence showed the way, until the mission included such organisations as Day and Night Schools, Sunday Schools, Penny Banks, Bands of Hope, and Mothers' Meetings. In 1875 the committee took over the Anchor School and

the Lucas Street Mission; but since the commencement of 1882 these organisations no longer formed part of the Mission, which reverted back to the position it held prior to 1875. Stephen the Yeoman Sunday School was in as healthy a condition as ever; with more accommodation the numbers in attendance might be indefinitely increased, whilst the Day School, with 167 scholars on the roll, continued its useful career under its excellent teacher, Miss Challis. The great end for which the school was opened eighteen years ago was still faithfully kept in view, and it was satisfactory to know that there had been, through its influence, a steady growth of gentler manners and purer speech and act in the neighbourhood. During the past year, 2,289 dinners were given to the children. The report also spoke of the good accomplished by the Band of Hope, the Night School, the Penny Bank, and the other agencies. There were yet thousands of boys and girls who were practically beyond the School Board, and who were gathered in by such schools as those connected with the mission, and given an education which was fitted to their needs.

The financial statement, read by Mr. J. J. Vezey, showed that during the past year £366 7s. 6d. had been expended, leaving a balance of £3 in hand.

The Rev. G. Lester moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by the Rev. W. J. Stobart.

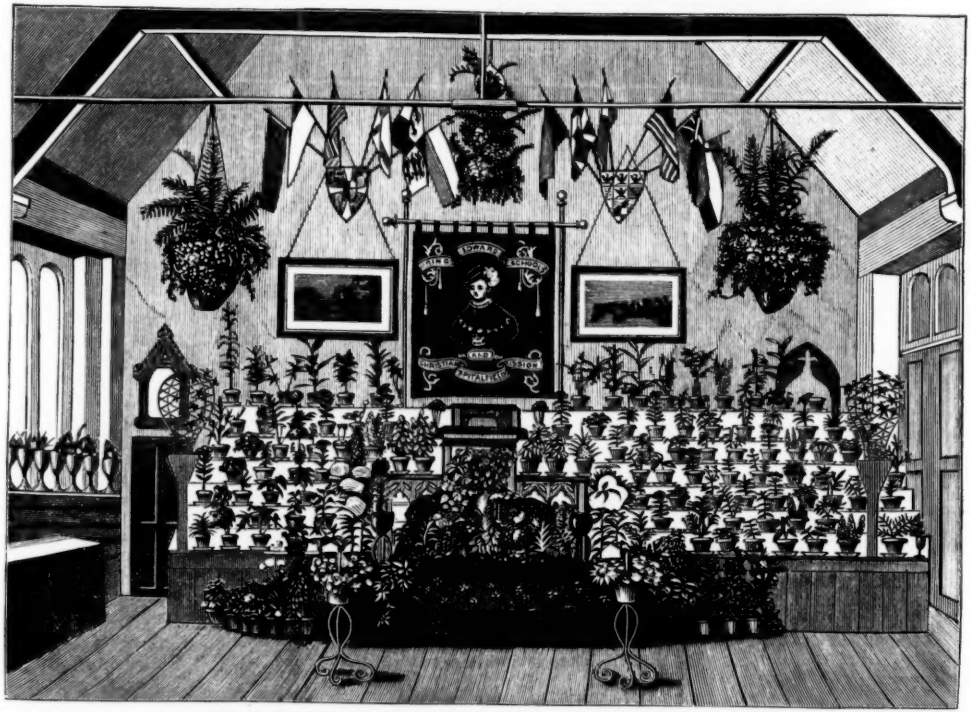
Mr. Donald Matheson, president of the mission, moved: "That the plans agreed upon at the last public meeting for the amalgamation of the mission work not having been found practicable, and this meeting recognising that the essential character of this institution] is that of a Ragged School, and realising the great necessity for the continuance of such, heartily approves of the action of the committee in reverting to its original constitution."

Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. T. Farmer, the former superintendent.

In replying to a vote of thanks Lord Shaftesbury said he had certain parental interest in respect to Stephen the Yeoman Ragged Schools. A great many years since that good woman, Miss Charlesworth, placed at his disposal £100, which was spent in founding a Ragged School in Bermondsey, her only condition being that it should be named Stephen the Yeoman. It was very gratifying, after the great storm of 1870, when so many Ragged Schools suffered, to find that this one had weathered the gale, and that the workers showed no sign of decay in energy, but that, after twenty-two years' service, they were still at their posts, and not only discharging their duties, but anxiously waiting for greater means to enable them to pursue greater operations. With respect to the want of accommodation at Stephen the Yeoman, which caused them to turn away so many children, he believed that if an appeal were made to the West End, the committee would quickly get what they required.

CHURCH PLACE, PADDINGTON.

A tea was given to the night scholars on May 25th. About thirty boys of the right class were present. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, addressed the lads.



The King Edward Ragged School Flower Service (see page 150).